

Hamdoun: Peace prospects bleak

LONDON (R) — An Iraqi minister said Friday no major changes had taken place in Iraq since the death of Ayatollah Khomeini and prospects of a lasting peace between Iraq and Iran appeared remote. Nizar Hamdoun, deputy minister at the Iraqi ministry of foreign affairs, said Iranian foreign policy was unchanged since Khomeini's death last June and peace moves were stalled by Tehran's refusal to hold direct talks. "It is well known that the state of relations between Iraq and Iran at the moment is that of no war, no peace," Hamdoun said in a speech at the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London. "Observing Iraq at present, I see no profound changes from Khomeini's Iran," he said. "I cannot but conclude that if the present situation continues, the long term prospects... is bound to be very bleak indeed." Hamdoun accused Tehran of continuing involvement in terrorism and dedication to the export of its Islamic revolution. "Iranian officials continue with great enthusiasm the mass hostile education of the Iranian people against Iraq."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الرأي»

Amal, Hizbollah renew battle

SIDON (R) — Rival Shi'ites fought with mortars and rockets in South Lebanon and south of Beirut Friday, security sources said. They said militant of the pre-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) and militiamen of the Syrian-backed Amal fought in Iqlim Al Tuffah, 40 kilometres south of Beirut and at Ousele, a seaside residential area at the southern entrance of the capital. Three people were wounded in four hours of fighting, the sources added. Witnesses said the sounds of exploding shells and rockets rocked villages in the mountainous area in South Lebanon while thousands of people were trapped by gunfire in Ousele. The rivals have been fighting in Iqlim Al Tuffah since last December when Hizbollah extended its control in the area to several Amal-held villages. Some 95 people were killed in the battles. Iranian and Syrian mediators failed to stop the fighting which is eased in January after hundreds of Palestinian guerrillas deployed in the area with the declared aim of separating the rivals. The security source said Syrian troops positioned in west Beirut intervened to stop the fighting near Beirut and contacts were made with officials from both sides to halt fire.

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Ministry to license new clearing agents

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Finance has decided to grant licences to new customs clearance agents in line with the government's policy to create new jobs and solve the problem of unemployment. The ministry set a number of conditions for issuance of licences. The conditions provide, in part, for applicants should furnish a bank guarantee of JD 20,000, and should be over 21 years old and hold a Tawjihi or university certificate. The applications will be accepted effective March 1.

Arar, delegation in Cairo

CAIRO (Petra) — A Jordanian parliamentary delegation is in Cairo to attend meetings by the African Parliamentary Union due to open Saturday. The delegation is led by Lower House of Parliament Speaker Suleiman Arar, who said upon arrival Friday evening that the Jordanian delegation would be attending as an observer, which is a good chance to meet with parliamentarians from various African countries to discuss Arab-African cooperation in parliamentary affairs. Arar and his team will also be meeting with the speaker and members of Egypt's People's Council to discuss Jordanian-Egyptian parliamentary cooperation.

League to discuss Egyptian proposal

TUNIS (R) — Arab League foreign ministers due to meet Saturday will debate an Egyptian proposal to return the league's headquarters to Cairo, Arab diplomatic sources said. The sources said several Arab governments had received notice that Egypt planned to raise the issue on Saturday. They said the league secretariat had not been informed of the move but this was a technical point as any member could raise any issue it wanted during the meeting.

Israel, E. Germany discuss relations

COPENHAGEN (AP) — Israeli and East German officials ended a second round of preliminary talks Friday on establishing diplomatic relations, an East German embassy spokesman said. Spokesman Pieter Loll said a letter from East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow to his Israeli counterpart, Yitzhak Shamir, was given to the Israeli delegation. "The letter, together with further clarifications, was forwarded to Israel for further consideration," the Israeli embassy said in a statement.

France jails Tunisian for 20 years

PARIS (AP) — A Tunisian who said he was waging a holy war against the West was sentenced Friday to 20 years in prison for activities linked to bombings that killed 13 people in Paris. Fouad Ali Salem, 31, was convicted on charges of conspiracy, possession of illegal arms and trafficking in explosives. His French wife, Katima, and eight other men — three Tunisians, two Moroccans and three Lebanese — were convicted on the same charges and sentenced to terms of five to 10 years. Salem and at least three of the other defendants are scheduled to go on trial again later this year for the murders of the 13 people killed in the wave of explosions that rocked Paris between Dec. 7, 1985 and Sept. 8, 1986. About 250 people were injured as bombs struck train stations, department stores, shops and monuments.

S. Arabia introduces safety measures for Saudi diplomats

DAMMAM (R) — Foreign Minister Prince Sand Al Faisal said in remarks published Friday that the government had taken steps to protect Saudi diplomats abroad. "The government has taken safety measures to protect Saudi diplomats working in the Saudi embassies abroad, and God willing these measures will guard the kingdom's sons from dangers while performing their duties towards their religion, king and country," Al Medina newspaper quoted Prince Sand as saying.

King renews warning over Soviet influx

LONDON (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein has renewed warnings that the massive Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel posed a serious threat to the Arabs and efforts for peace in the Middle East. In an interview with the American television network ABC, the King said Friday that Jewish immigration to Israel would be at the expense of the Palestinian people living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip who will be forced to leave the occupied lands to make room for the immigrants. "This issue is very serious," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted the King as saying in the interview. "It deserves concentration of efforts. Attention should be focused on efforts for peace in the Middle East so that the region can enjoy peace just as any other region of the world," he was quoted as saying. Noting that the rate of Jewish immigration to Israel is expected to increase dramatically, the King said: "Some 46,000 Palestinians from the occupied territories who visit Jordan from time to time are now staying in Jordan; some of them are not allowed (by the Israeli authorities) to return to their homes in the occupied lands."

Total amnesty applicable only to illegal Egyptian, Syrian workers

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Labour has amended a decision to grant a total amnesty for fines and legal proceedings against illegal guest workers by applying it only to Egyptian and Syrian workers in Jordan whose work permits have expired. Other illegal guest workers will have to pay reduced fines, according to the amended decision. Labour Minister Qasem Obaidat, in reports carried in the local press Friday, said that the two-month amnesty, which goes into effect March 15, will be applicable only to Egyptian and Syrian nationals and all other illegal guest workers in the country will have to pay reduced fines before they will be allowed to leave the Kingdom. In addition, all have to sign an affidavit saying they will not return to the Kingdom. The fines normally reach up to JD 30 per month or part thereof to be paid to the Ministry of Interior and JD 75 per month or part thereof to be paid to the Ministry of Labour for every illegal guest worker.

Aoun turns conciliatory, urges talks on Taif pact

BEIRUT (Agencies) — General Michel Aoun, in a conciliatory move, called Friday for peace with rival Christian and Muslim leaders to end Lebanon's 15-year civil war. Aoun also dropped his outright opposition to the peace accord worked out by Lebanon's parliament last fall in the Saudi Arabian resort city of Taif. Police said a week-old ceasefire between Aoun's 19,000 troops and the 6,000-strong Lebanese Forces (LF) militia of Samir Geagea was holding despite minor exchanges of sniper fire. The inconclusive showdown between Aoun and Geagea for mastery of the 800-square-kilometre Christian enclave has killed 750 people and wounded 2,089. "The war in (Christian) east Beirut is definitely over... it appeared that violence does not lead to a solution... there will be no more war between east and west Beirut too," the daily independent Al Nahar newspaper quoted Aoun Friday. West Beirut is the base of internationally-recognized Lebanese President Elias Hrawi. Since last November and during the fighting between Aoun's men and the LF, the Christian enclave has been surrounded by Syrian troops and Lebanese soldiers loyal to Hrawi. The Maronite Christian President, elected by Muslim and Christian deputies of Lebanon's parliament last November but rejected by Aoun as a Syrian puppet, has several times warned he might have to use force to oust Aoun from the presidential

palace and compel the general to recognise his authority. Aoun said he was ready to talk with all his rivals including Syria and Hrawi. "I still say I am ready to talk to our Syrian brothers on the basis of Lebanon's sovereignty to solve this problem because we are not trouble-seekers," said Aoun, who last year fought an unsuccessful six-month war aimed at expelling thousands of Syrian troops from Lebanon. "I suggest that we sit at a round table and seek the suitable solutions to our difficulties and reach mutual understanding," the newspaper quoted him as saying. Aoun said would be prepared to discuss the Arab-sponsored Taif peace pact which led to the establishment of Lebanon's internationally recognised west Beirut-based administration. "If we couldn't through this present thing (Taif) reach a result, the second solution could be Taif... plus a comma or something totally new... I am definitely ready to discuss an amendment to the Taif pact," Aoun added. "When you cannot change a phenomena through politics, external force, internal explosion or any other way then you must deal with it realistically," said Aoun. He said the war in Lebanon was absurd and touched all parties in the country. "It (the war) was all to disintegrate Lebanon." "We have to seek dialogue. Direct dialogue among the Lebanese with the help of others... there is no solution without difficulties, we have to work quietly."

the massive influx of Jewish immigration to Israel. In an interview published in the French Le Figaro daily Thursday, the King said the United States was responsible for the crisis triggered by the exodus of Jews from the Soviet Union. He said Washington, by imposing restrictions on Soviet immigration into the U.S., was forcing Soviet Jews to go to Israel and eventually settle in the occupied territories. He said the U.S. could use its influence and find a just and durable settlement to the Palestinian problem. He said Jordan acknowledges the right of all people, including Jews, to live anywhere they choose but not at the expense of the Arab people of Palestine.

King visits deputy King Hussein Friday visited Deputy Ahmad Qtaish Al Azaydeh, who is currently receiving medical treatment in a London hospital after undergoing a surgery, to enquire about his health.

Strike marks 28th month of uprising

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip held a general strike Friday to mark the start of the 28th month of their uprising. There were no immediate reports of violence. The monthly strikes have generally resulted in violent clashes between Palestinians and Israeli troops. In an Israeli prison outside the southern town of Ashkelon a Lebanese inmate was strangled to death by a fellow prisoner who suspected him of collaborating with Israeli forces, army radio said. On Thursday, the Arab Chamber of Commerce, which represents Palestinian merchants in Jerusalem, appealed to Western governments to urge Israel to stop tax raids on their shops, a chamber official said. "Every day they are raiding stores in a very harsh way," said chamber Director Faiek Barakat. "They are confiscating goods, searching the owners of stores and taking everything from his pocket." He accused the tax raiders of "taking the law into their own hands" and said that if a merchant was in a violation of the tax law

Israeli raid kills 4 in N. Lebanon

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Israeli planes killed four Palestinians and wounded two in an attack on guerrilla bases in northern Lebanon Friday, security sources said. The jets hit bases of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) 60 kilometres north of Beirut, in an unusually deep incursion into Lebanon. The Israeli army said the targets hit served as "launching points" for attacks on Israel by the PFLP-GC. The communiqué did not point to a specific attack blamed on the group. While Israel frequently attacks guerrilla bases in South Lebanon in retaliation for attacks on or near the Israeli-Lebanese border, the raid in northern Lebanon was unusual. The last in the area was on July 10, 1985, when Israeli jets demolished a headquarters building of a Palestinian faction led by Saeed Moosa. At least five people were killed and 29 wounded in that air strike. On Friday, the target was the Khass Al Khayst region about 10 kilometres north of Tripoli, the Israeli communiqué said. It was the eighth air raid this year by Israeli jets against targets in Lebanon. The last one was Feb. 23 against a base near the South Lebanon port of Sidon.

Cigarette factory reports decline in sales, seeks preemptive action

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Sales of locally-produced cigarettes dropped by 24 per cent in 1989, resulting in an estimated JD 9 million loss in revenue for the treasury and JD 1.6 million for the Jordan Tobacco Company, the sole manufacturer of local cigarettes, according to Ali Al Saad, general manager of the company. The company suffered a decline of 17 per cent in local sales and seven per cent in its exports last year, Saad told the Jordan Times over the weekend. He said that the company was holding talks with Parliament members and government officials to find quick solutions to preempt any further losses in 1990. Saad testified before the Agriculture Committee of the Lower House of Parliament last week and explained the reasons behind the plunge. In an interview with the Jordan Times he outlined several main factors which led to the situation: A sharp decline in local consumption and demand as a result of the soaring cost of living in the country. Huge amounts are tied up in storage of tobacco, enough to meet the company's needs for the next five years, since regulations stipulate that the company buy

the entire output of local farmers. — Ceilings set by the government do not permit the company to offer competitive prices in the international market. — The company has been forced to increase the content of local tobacco in its products. "This adversely affects the quality of our cigarettes," according to Saad. Elaborating further on these points, Saad said that the quality of JTC cigarettes had gone down because of the increase in their content of locally-grown tobacco. "The taste and smell of the cigarette as well as its other qualities have deteriorated," Saad said. He explained that the locally grown tobacco "is of a lower quality when compared with international standards, especially in its physical and chemical qualities." The increasing taxes on imported tobacco and the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar's exchange value, coupled with the limits placed on the prices of local cigarettes by the government, according to Saad, warranted that the company mix new blends with a higher percentage of local tobacco. Although the company prides itself of being "totally Jordanian," according to Saad, cigarette manufacturing requires

a blend of tobacco that can only be achieved through the import of other types of tobacco. "We have tried all possible ways to improve local tobacco, including importing seeds of the highest quality tobacco, but natural factors are the main contributors to its lower quality," Saad said. He explained that "primitive farming procedures, coupled with the Kingdom's weather and type of soil, have left no space for improvement of local tobacco." The company has to import tobacco to enable it to make the right blend or all our cigarettes would taste the same," Saad explained. The Jordan Tobacco Company imports tobacco from North America and North Africa. The shareholding company, founded in 1931, produces seven brands of cigarettes formulated according to different blends to appeal to the different tastes of the consumers. "The blend is the most important factor... the internationally successful blend uses eight to ten different types of tobacco," Saad explained. "Our cigarettes are recognised world-wide, especially in the Arab markets, to which we export our cigarettes," Saad said. The exported cigarettes, however, are blended with a lesser percentage of local tobacco "because our prices are floated

abroad so we can produce better cigarettes." He attributed the seven per cent decline in the company's exports to decisions by importing Arab countries to stop the import of Jordanian cigarettes. The government collects the lion's share of the company's sales revenues as tax on primary products, production tax and customs. According to Saad, this sum constitutes close to 75 per cent of the company's total revenue. "We are one of the largest local financiers of Jordan's treasury," Saad said. But in 1989, the government only collected JD 47 million because of the decline in the company's sales. The company, of which semi-government institutions own a third, has an annual production of 160 million packets, including those for export, and uses 3,500 tonnes of tobacco. The economic situation in the Kingdom and conservative consumption trends have also contributed to reduced demand for cigarettes as a whole in the country, Saad said. According to Saad, studies indicate that the Jordanian public is concentrating its spending now "no more on basic commodities" and as a result of the prevailing

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Strike marks 28th month of uprising

PERCENTAGES SPECIFIED The Ministry of Labour has set certain limits on the number of guest workers who could be employed by Jordanian businesses and industries. A statement issued by Employment Department Director Mansour Al Utom and carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, set the limits as follows: Textile industry: 20 per cent to the total work force; clothing industry: 40 per cent; laundries: 35 per cent; construction: 35 per cent; car wash and petrol stations and gas distribution centres: 30 per cent; first class restaurants and three to five-star hotels: 40 per cent; meat distribution centres: 40 per cent; machinery shops: 30 per cent; and shoe making industries: 30 per cent. Utom said all these businesses should implement a policy of gradually reducing the number of guest workers and by the year 1992 a new policy would be in place which will allow for non-Jordanian worker or a limited number of guest workers to be employed in these sectors.

Labour said braced for coalition collapse

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Labour Party has set up a mechanism for topping the government if its coalition partner, the hawkish Likud bloc, rejects U.S. peace proposals in a crucial cabinet session Sunday. At the same time, Labour's number two, Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, is trying to work out a compromise with Likud before the cabinet showdown to prevent a breakup of the government. Israeli media reported Friday. Yossi Sarid of the Citizens Rights Movement said Friday that his party would introduce a parliamentary motion of no confidence against the government on Tuesday if Likud rejects the proposals by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. The text of the motion was coordinated with senior Labour members, Sarid told the Associated Press. "They wanted to be sure that a no-confidence motion will be on the agenda, that if they need it, it's there," Sarid said. To bring down the government, Labour, which has 39 seats to Likud's 40, would have to muster a simple majority in the 120-member Knesset, or parliament. It would need the support of a number of small leftist and religious parties.

The key dispute between Labour and Likud focuses on Arab East Jerusalem. Earlier this week, Likud ministers insisted on a Labour guarantee that Jerusalem Palestinians not be allowed to vote in proposed elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Likud also demanded a Labour promise that it would not take an independent line in negotiations and would agree to walk out if the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was involved in the peace talks. Without such guarantees, Likud will not vote on U.S.-backed compromise proposals to put together a Palestinian negotiating team for the Cairo talks, said Yossi Ahimeir, a spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of Likud. "We can expect that there won't be a move by Likud away from its proposal," Ahimeir told the AP Friday. "The unity of Jerusalem is a very clear issue, and the opposition to any participation of the PLO is a very clear issue." Ahimeir said he did not expect a cabinet decision on Baker's proposals by Sunday, as demanded by Labour. "We don't act according to ultimatums," Ahimeir said.

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Israel challenges U.S. criticism on Jerusalem

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — In a direct challenge to U.S. criticism of settling Jews in Arab Jerusalem, Israel's housing minister said Friday that he hoped to start construction of new housing for Israelis in the eastern sector of the Holy City within a week. Housing Minister David Levy also said that 4,000 of 30,000 housing units planned this year for Israeli Jews should be built in Jerusalem. A ministry spokesman, who asked not to be identified, said at least 2,000 would be in the eastern sector. In announcing his plans, Levy said settling Jews in Arab Jerusalem was an "elementary national obligation," then added: "But it's also a message to everyone who casts doubt on the rights of the Israeli people to its united capital." "Next week, with the help of God, we will give an answer in the field," Levy said in a speech in the northern city of Tiberias. Levy added that Israel would begin construction next week on a previously planned 2,200-unit development in Arab Jerusalem. The 4,000 units that Levy mentioned would be in addition to these units already approved by the government. U.S. President George Bush

and Secretary of State James Baker both issued strong statements last week urging Israel not to settle more Jews in Arab Jerusalem or the occupied West Bank. Last Saturday, Bush told a news conference in California that "we do not believe there should be new settlements in the West Bank or East Jerusalem." Three days earlier, Baker had told a house subcommittee that \$400 million in loan guarantees requested by Israel to help house a flood of Soviet Jewish immigrants should be made contingent on Israeli assurances that the funds would not go for construction in the occupied lands. The U.S. administration Thursday affirmed the right of Jews to live in Arab Jerusalem but described the predominantly Arab part of the city as occupied territory. Statements at the White House and the State Department linked Jews in Arab Jerusalem to West Bank settlers. Aware of the controversy the administration has stirred in Israel, beginning with a statement by Bush on Jerusalem last Saturday, U.S. officials also stressed the closeness of the United States and Israel.

"A good, close friend can disagree," said State Department spokeswoman Margaret D. Tutwiler. Still, the dispute shows no sign of quieting down. It comes at a critical time in Middle East peace-making efforts. Both White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater and State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler were questioned about the issue on Thursday. "The United States supports a united Jerusalem whose final status is determined by negotiations. The president has made clear U.S. support for Jews as well as others to live there in the context of a negotiated settlement," said Fitzwater. But he had no answer when asked if this meant Jews had the right to live there now or whether the United States considered Arab Jerusalem suburbs to be settlements.

Tutwiler was equally opaque at her daily State Department briefing. "All of the territories occupied in 1967 are still occupied — there is nothing new here. Our policy is that the territory still subject to negotiation between Israel and the Arabs are the territories occupied in 1967," she said. Later she was asked: "But you and the president and Martin Fitzwater have just cast doubt on the legality of Jews living in Jerusalem..." Tutwiler: "Wrong, wrong, wrong." Question: "...and you called Jerusalem part of the occupied territories." Tutwiler: "Have you heard me say that?" She also had no answer when

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Najibullah accuses Pakistan of playing big role in coup attempt

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Afghanistan Friday accused neighbouring Pakistan of playing a major role in a thwarted attempt to overthrow President Najibullah.

Pakistan called the allegation absurd, saying the plot to topple Najibullah only exposed the cracks in his shaky government. At least 36 people died and 200 others were injured in the mutiny led by Afghanistan's renegade Defence Minister, Gen. Shah Nawaz Tanai, and dissident soldiers. The mutinous soldiers were supported by fundamentalist guerrilla leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

On Wednesday, Tanai defected to the Muslim rebels who have been fighting since 1978 to topple the Communist government in Kabul.

While the plot apparently failed, Western diplomats in Pakistan said Tuesday's attempted coup had hurt Najibullah politically and militarily and bought time for the guerrillas preparing for the so-called summer fighting season.

Tanai, a feisty, battle-hardened officer popular among the rank-and-file military, was dismissed as defence minister shortly after Afghan warplanes swooped down and bombed the capital of Kabul, causing extensive damage to the city of 2 million.

Najibullah also replaced Tanai and other key members of the policy-making politburo, the Central Committee and the Supreme Defence Council, which maps out the government's strategy in the 12-year-old war against the Mujahideen, or Islamic holy warriors.

Among those dismissed from the politburo were Said Moham-

mad Gulabzhoi, Afghanistan's ambassador to Moscow, and Gen. Abdul Qader Aga Aka, a leader of the air force contingents that helped Mohammad Daoud overthrow the monarchy in 1973. Daoud was killed in a 1978 coup that installed the Communist government.

During a news conference Thursday in Kabul, Najibullah declared his government had been purged of dissidents and that his ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) was now more united than ever.

"The microbes, the radicals among us, have been cleansed," a Kabul-based diplomat quoted the 43-year-old president as saying. "We don't have any more factions." The diplomat spoke on condition of anonymity.

Radio Kabul, monitored in Islamabad, reported that the government had proof that neighboring Pakistan played a key role in Tanai's attempts to topple Najibullah, the former chief of the feared secret police who was installed by the Soviets in 1986.

"The government of Afghanistan has undeniable documents of Pakistan's interference and participation in the unsuccessful coup. The government demands that Pakistan hand over Shah Nawaz Tanai and others who escaped to Pakistan," the radio said.

The Soviet-backed government regularly accuses Pakistan of training the Afghan guerrillas.

As it has always done, the Islamabad government again denied the charge.

"This (coup attempt) is an internal matter. It involves rival factions within the PDPA and shows that the government's claim of popular support is just a sham," said a Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Western diplomats in Pakistan said the mutiny within the Afghan Air Force had hurt Najibullah politically and militarily. The Afghan Air Force has been credited for helping Najibullah survive since the Soviet Union ended nine years of direct military intervention and pulled the Red Army out of Afghanistan in February 1989.

"The Afghan Air Force has been Najibullah's main weapon against the Mujahideen," said one Western diplomat, speaking on condition of not being identified.

"But the coup attempt shows that there is dissension within the military and the two sides just spent several days destroying each other. They had a lot of planes and a lot of pilots but they don't have as many now."

The air force is vital for providing cover for supply convoys in the capital and for ferrying weapons and supplies to besieged cities such as Khost, Jalalabad, Gardez and Khost.

With the planes diverted to Kabul, the diplomats said, the guerrillas are now able to move weapons into Afghanistan.

"They haven't had to worry about air cover for several days and this is giving them time to prepare" for the summer fighting season, which usually begins in June after the snow has melted.

According to Hekmatyar, the outspoken guerrilla leader, Tanai now is helping them. "He is back in Afghanistan, in

the vicinity of Kabul province and preparing to mobilise his troops for the final assault," the banned guerrilla leader said in Peshawar, the northern frontier town where the seven resistance groups are headquartered.

Throughout the war that has claimed the lives of more than 1 million Afghans, Tanai and Hekmatyar have been bitter rivals. Tanai, an outspoken hardline Marxist, opposed Najibullah's proposals for peace talks with the guerrillas, and Hekmatyar said he would only support an Islamic government in Afghanistan.

On Wednesday, Tanai flew aboard an Afghan military helicopter to Pakistan, where he met with Hekmatyar's guerrillas and then returned to Afghanistan with them.

Hekmatyar's Hezb-I-Islami has split from the other six groups in the Pakistan-based resistance over leadership disputes. The firebrand leader has been accused of killing rebel fighters from other groups and collusion with Communists. And despite his powerful anti-West rhetoric, he has received the bulk of the U.S. weapons shipped to the guerrillas.

Leaders of the guerrillas' government-in-exile have sought to distance themselves further, saying they would never accept Tanai as an ally.

"He's no different than Najibullah. How can we extend our support to a Communist?" said Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, leader of the radical Islamic Ittehad, or Unity of Islam Party. Sayyaf, whose group is supported by Saudi Arabia, has previously sided with Hekmatyar in disputes among the fractious alliance.

Rafsanjani chides Bush over hoax phone call

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani said Friday a phone hoax in which U.S. President George Bush thought he was calling Rafsanjani showed U.S. eagerness to talk to Iran.

He said "now we must wait for explanations and witness another Iranagate in the making, God willing."

Iranagate is the name given to the ill-fated effort by the administration of former President Ronald Reagan to trade arms to Iran to gain release of U.S. hostages.

Presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater said in Washington Thursday that Bush returned a phone call last month to talk about U.S. hostages with a man he thought was the Iranian president, but it turned out to be a hoax.

Speaking in a sermon in Tehran, Rafsanjani said the White House report "shows that the U.S. needs to talk to Iran, but with God's grace, it is deprived (by Iran) of this blessing."

Fitzwater said the U.S. government has let Rafsanjani know "through diplomatic channels as well as publicly, that we're willing to talk whenever they're ready. And they have come back and said, 'we're not ready.'"

Rafsanjani told Friday prayers "Iran's stature in the world is so high that the strongest power in the world, and the greatest power on earth is grappling to find an opening to your executive leader (Rafsanjani) even through telephone wires."

He added that Iran expected the United States to answer such questions as "who was the intermediary, who did they talk to and what did they talk about."

"Can it be that such a global power, with all its intelligence capabilities, can talk to a person it cannot identify," Rafsanjani

asked. "This is a strange occurrence."

Rafsanjani referred to Western press reports of the incident, saying, "the synopsis of the news is that the U.S. president tried to contact the Iranian president for a month, and after some time it was learning that the person he was talking to was not the Iranian president but someone else."

Rafsanjani's version was at variance with the White House report which said the hoax call was not initiated by the United States.

NBC and CBS television both reported the hoax call, with CBS saying Bush in his conversation with "Rafsanjani" repeated that goodwill on one side could promote goodwill on the other, but there could be no deal for the hostages' release.

Eight Americans and nine other Westerners are believed to be held somewhere in the Middle East and officials feel that Iran could play a role in their release.

Disclosure of the hoax followed reports that the United States and Iran have had direct contacts on the hostage situation, denied by both the White House and Rafsanjani.

Iraq opens trial of nurse, journalist

LONDON (R) — An Iranian-born journalist and a British nurse, facing spying charges, carrying a maximum penalty of death, went on trial in Iraq, Britain's Foreign Office said. A spokesman said the court trying Farzad Bazoft and Daphne Park was set for 5 1/2 hours and adjourned until Saturday, when a verdict may be announced. The pair were arrested last September

Iraq attacks Iran's defence spending plan

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq Friday attacked Iranian plans to spend \$10 billion on arms over the next five years, saying the spending would destabilise the Gulf.

Tehran's plans "reflect its policy to continue interfering in others' internal affairs and to destabilise the region," the Defence Ministry newspaper Al Qadisiya said.

Iraq does not normally publish its defence budget but foreign reports have established its defence spending at \$13.9 billion in 1987.

Al Qadisiya said Iran's "policy of plundering the people's wealth for terrorism and armaments faces stiff resistance from the people, shown during the turmoil in many Iranian towns against the country's economic crisis."

A ceasefire in August 1988 ended the Iran-Iraq war but peace talks have made almost no progress.

In Tehran, Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani Friday welcomed the United Nations' proposed eight-point agenda for renewed talks.

"It is an acceptable proposal which can be suitable ground for starting peace talks," he said in a Friday prayer sermon broadcast on Tehran Radio.

The proposed agenda, given by Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to Iranian and Iraqi U.N. envoys Tuesday, covers virtually all outstanding issues in Security Council Resolution 598.

The first of the points, which are not numbered, deals with "further arrangements relating to the ceasefire" that went into force on Aug. 20, 1988.

New Jewish neighbourhoods planned in East Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The West Jerusalem City Council has said it was examining potential sites in Arab East Jerusalem for thousands of new flats for the city's growing population and for Soviet Jewish immigrants.

The search is being made in the midst of controversy both over the city and over a massive influx of Soviet Jews.

Last weekend, U.S. President George Bush publicly opposed any increase in Jewish settlement in Arab East Jerusalem, occupied by Israel in 1967, annexed and declared part of the Jewish state's capital.

His opposition to Jewish settlements "in the West Bank and East Jerusalem," provoked Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to call for as many Soviet Jewish immigrants as possible to be settled in Jerusalem — East and West.

Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek has also urged Jews from the Soviet Union to settle in both sides of the disputed capital in defiance of Washington, Israel's closest ally.

The Hebrew-language Haaretz daily reported Thursday that city officials were secretly planning a new Jewish neighbourhood on Mount Hahoma — Jebel Abu Ghunaym in Arabic — in East Jerusalem.

The area is located between the Arab village of Sur Bahir and the occupied West Bank town of Bethlehem on territory occupied in the 1967 Middle East war.

City spokeswoman Bonnie Boxer told Reuters: "The Mount Hahoma site is one of several that is being considered. There are no developed plans for this site. It is only in a very preliminary stage."

She said Mount Hahoma was Jewish-owned but she did not have details. The municipality was examining building sites mainly in East Jerusalem because the Jewish sector was already heavily congested.

"The population is growing. Last year the Jerusalem school system had 4,000 more students than the year before," Boxer said. "We also hope a large number of Soviet Jews will move to Jerusalem."

About 10 per cent of the recent Soviet newcomers have settled in Jerusalem, but the Israeli figures do not distinguish between East and West sides of the city.

The population of the Eastern sector has grown to 115,000 Jews and 140,000 Arabs since 1967.

Israel expects about 100,000 Jews from the Soviet Union this year and up to half a million in the next five years under the open door policy of Moscow.

Several hundred immigrants have already moved to the Israeli-occupied territories. Palestinians and Arab countries have expressed alarm that Palestinians may be driven out and replaced by the newcomers.

Jerusalem is at the centre of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have been waging a 27-month-old revolt aimed at creating an Arab state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Kollek held a city council meeting in East Jerusalem Tuesday to assert the Jewish state's control over the city.

Abie Nathan to meet PLO officials

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli peace negotiator Abie Nathan, jailed until last month for contacts with the banned Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), is to meet the organisation's officials in Cairo, the Israeli weekly Kol Ha'ir reported Friday.

Nathan's office said the Iranian-born broadcaster left Israel Friday morning but staff would not reveal his destination.

Kol Ha'ir said Nathan would meet PLO officials in Egypt, then set off on a PLO-arranged tour of Saudi Arabia and North Yemen.

In Riyadh, the 63-year-old former air force pilot would seek an audience with King Fahd and ask

him to guarantee immediate recognition of Israel if the Jewish state achieved peace with the Palestinians, the paper said.

Israel's coalition government is currently split over U.S. proposals to begin unprecedented peace talks with Palestinians waging a bloody revolt against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Labour has set Sunday as a deadline for its right-wing Likud partners to accept the American plan.

Under the terms of a suspended sentence handed down with his jail term last October, Nathan faces a minimum of one-

year in prison if he meets PLO officials again within 12 months. Israel defines the PLO as "a terrorist organisation" determined to destroy it.

Meeting Palestinian activists in Jerusalem last week Nathan vowed to continue fighting the 1986 law barring meetings with the PLO and said he would shortly be travelling again and would "provide a few surprises."

Nathan met PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Tunis and Strasbourg in September 1988 and says he was instrumental in Arafat's later offer to talk peace with Israel.

Assad: Israel benefits from E. European changes

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad has said that changes sweeping Eastern Europe spelled danger for the Arab World.

Assad said Israel had benefited most from the new order, restoring diplomatic ties and gaining greater influence in several states. He urged Arab unity to confront the problem.

Assad, addressing a rally marking 27 years of Baath Party rule, accused the United States of playing a major role in encouraging the emigration of Soviet citizens to Israel.

He said the migrants had no historical or racial connection with Israel.

"Those Soviet immigrants have never been, nor their forefathers before them, at any period of history, citizens of Palestine. Neither are they Israelis, nor Semites..."

"Even the false claim of the sons of Israel to the land of

Palestine and to a state extending from the Euphrates to the Nile does not apply to them, nor does it include them because they are not the sons of Isaac, nor are they the sons of Sam, Noah's son."

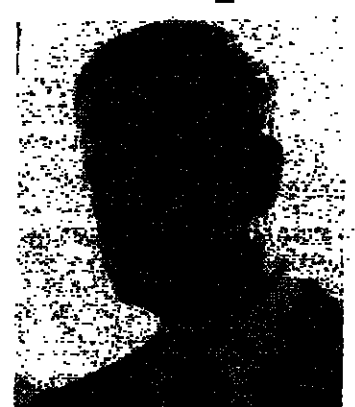
"Israel expects 100,000 immigrants this year, following a Soviet relaxation of emigration restrictions and new limits on their entry to the United States."

The exodus has alarmed Arab countries who fear the newcomers will settle in the occupied territories claimed by Palestinians as a separate state.

Israel and East Germany began talks Thursday about establishing diplomatic relations. The Jewish state last month restored ties with Poland.

Assad said Syria's emergency law, which provides for at least a month's detention before a court appearance, should be used more sparingly.

He said the law, in force for



Hafez Al Assad

three decades, should be restricted to security and public order matters and asked his government to study the idea.

Assad said a party congress expected this month or early in April would investigate improvements to the political system.

But the president, who himself came to power in a bloodless

coup in 1970, said the policies of the Baath Movement remained the "best broad lines for our future action."

Assad said the emergency law should remain in force because Syria was still in a state of war with Israel.

He said it had to be applied for some offences because current legislation — which needed to be improved — failed to stipulate an appropriate punishment.

An act of arson in a forest, for example, would merit a brief term of imprisonment or fine under existing laws but deserved severe punishment.

The emergency law has been used to penalise those breaking regulations on customs and supplies, among other matters.

Following Assad's speech, Prime Minister Mahmoud Zu'bi said his government would on Saturday start preparing to limit the use of emergency laws to cases relating to state security.

Baker: Time is up

TEL AVIV — Below are unofficial excerpts of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's phone conversation with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker last Thursday night, concerning an Israeli response to proposals for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo.

Sources say that Shamir held the following conversation during his report to the inner cabinet yesterday:

Baker: The time is up, and I would like a response.

Shamir: It is not my intention to delay, but these are issues that require thoughtful consideration. We have to consider our position not just vis-a-vis the U.S. and the Arabs, but also towards our own coalition partner (Labour).

Baker: I understand, but anyway I would like a quick answer,

and I do not want to draw things out.

Shamir: Jerusalem is a special problem.

Baker: It will come up (during the Cairo talks). I can tell you that you will vote against it and the Arabs for it.

Shamir: What will be your position?

Baker: We will see.

Shamir: What will happen when they (the Palestinians) raise it?

Baker: We will see.

Shamir: We will see? This will not just come up on the agenda, but it will be the only thing on the agenda.

Baker: So, decide.

— Jerusalem Post.

Report links Israeli to three spy agencies

WASHINGTON — Mike Harari, the former Mossad spy who had close ties to ousted Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega, may have worked for three intelligence services, The Wall Street Journal has reported.

Quoting unnamed sources, the newspaper said that Harari "presented himself as an Israeli official, worked for Mr. Noriega, and bragged he had close ties to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)."

The report added: "U.S. intelligence sources say 'Harari sometimes operated as an Israeli diplomat. Three times in recent years, they say, he led secret Israeli missions to Cuba. There

he discussed a number of issues with Fidel Castro and sought his help in hunting down Nazi war criminals in South America."

The report suggested that the U.S. may in fact have helped Harari escape from Panama just as U.S. military forces were invading the country in December.

Jose Blandon, formerly Panama's consul-general in New York, was reported by the newspaper as having told a Senate Foreign Affairs Subcommittee in 1988 that Harari had helped the U.S. ship arms to contra rebels in Nicaragua. The U.S., Blandon said, participated in a "Harari network" that flew arms.

— The Jerusalem Post.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Children programme
15:45	Educational programme
16:00	News summary
16:05	Message from Iraq
16:10	A play by Shakespeare
16:15	Local programme
16:20	Programme review
16:25	News in Arabic
16:30	Arabic series
16:35	Programme review
16:40	Consumer's Guide
16:45	Local programme
16:50	News in English
16:55	Feature film: "The Big Black Fish"
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:30	Champs Elysees
17:35	News in French
17:40	Documentary
17:45	News in Hebrew
17:50	News in Arabic
17:55	Annie McGuire
18:00	Local programme
18:05	News in English
18:10	Feature film: "The Big Black Fish"
PRAYER TIMES	
04:32	Fajr
05:49	Sunrise (Duba)
11:46	Dhuhr

CHURCHES	
15:30	St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swaidah, Tel. 810740
15:45	Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
16:00	St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
16:10	Church of the Annunciation Tel. 627440
16:15	De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
16:20	Servant Church Tel. 622566
16:25	Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
16:30	Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
16:35	Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
16:40	Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
16:45	St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
16:50	Armenian International Church Tel. 683326
16:55	Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
17:00	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
The Kingdom will be affected by	

JACOB PHARMACY	
644945	Shimshoni pharmacy
637660	
IRBID:	
Dr. Abdul Majid Sabahin	(—)
Al Shura pharmacy	(985238)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Tareq Hijawi	(—)
Khalaf pharmacy	985417
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Haseem Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn.	644281/6
Jabal Amman Maternity	642412/2
Malase, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shamsia	664171/4
Shimshoni Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Mustashir Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	664154/6
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664154/6
Al-Bashir, J. Amman	775111/26
Arady, Amman	891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	664155
ZARQA:	
Zarga Govt. Hospital	(09)9832/3
Zarga National Hospital	(09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)96732
IRBID:	
Prince Basmah Hospital	(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272725
Ibn Al Nafise Hospital	(02)247100

Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
16:00	Baghdad (IA)
16:05	Cairo (MS)
16:10	Riyadh (SU)
16:15	Amman, New York (R)
16:20	Tripoli (LN)
16:25	Rome (AZ)
16:30	Dubai, Damascus (EK)
16:35	Paris, Damascus (AF)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
07:00	Amman (RJ)
07:05	Helsinki (RJ)
07:10	Tripoli (RJ)
07:15	Cumbers (RJ)
07:20	Vienna, Chicago (RJ)
07:25	Kuwait (RJ)
07:30	Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
07:35	London (RJ)
07:40	Paris (RJ)
07:45	Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
07:50	Cairo (RJ)
07:55	Amman (RJ)
08:00	New Delhi (RJ)

Prince Hassan stresses importance of studying history for national identity

AMMAN (J.T.) — The study of national history helps nations to recognise their identities. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Friday in reference to the Bilad Al Sham conference that concluded Wednesday.

In an article published by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the Crown Prince said that young Arabs today are divided between Western civilisation that they do not fully comprehend and their Islamic heritage that they do not fully study and analyse.

Prince Hassan said that the annual conference on the study of Bilad Al Sham's (Greater Syria) history was meant not only to scientifically study the chronicles of this region but also "to probe

into the achievements of Arabs and Muslims since the days of the Prophet."

"We should not forget that the Prophet Muhammad had laid down the bases of human rights, equality and justice," the Prince said.

Prince Hassan said that the five conferences held between 1974-1990 have contributed to a better understanding of the history of the region that encompasses Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon and Syria.

Works by "classical historians, archaeologists, anthropologists, sociologists, economists, and others, all together enrich the historical and civilisational study."

He said this was made possible by the proliferation of universities and the cooperation between scholars from all over the world.

He added that "the progress in the study of history should be accompanied by progress in the study of other branches of science."

"The study of the various periods of Greater Syria history should enlighten us on how races, religions, languages and peoples blended to create a well-balanced civilisation," the Prince wrote in the article.

"Our ancestors on this land had encountered many frustrations, but also many successes, and the study of our history should provide us with the insight

that the history of nations is fraught with ups and downs," Prince Hassan said.

"If one Arab people (the Palestinians) were uprooted from their homeland, another (Lebanon) is beset by national strife, and a third (Iraq) had to sacrifice its development for the nation's sake, this is not an indication that all is not well and that history is only pregnant with evil and destruction. Our past shows similar frustrations but also many achievements," Prince Hassan said.

The Prince said that the nation is showing signs that it is benefiting from the lessons of history and is the moment opting for cooperation, solidarity and unity.



HRH Crown Prince Hassan

He said that the Bilad Al Sham conferences have already provided us with a wealth of knowledge on the aspects of social, economic, and administrative life in the region through the ages. This knowledge should aid us in determining what suits us from the past and how to employ to serve the present.

Pan-Arab nationalists appeal to governments

TUNIS (Agencies) — A conference of pan-Arab nationalists which concluded in Tunis March 5 has urged all Arab countries to release all prisoners of conscience or offer them a fair trial and called on governments to ensure the rights of political refugees.

The conference, which was attended by prominent Arab activists and intellectuals including a group from Jordan, called on Arab governments to allow human rights organisations to operate in the Arab World and urged Arab leaders to pave the way for pan-Arab integration in all fields.

The participants reviewed external and internal issues facing the Arab Nation and noted with satisfaction a number of measures being taken by Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria and North Yemen to allow political pluralism. They also welcomed moves in Kuwait for the restoration of parliamentary life, a statement after the conference noted.

The statement said the participants also reviewed the Palestinian uprising and noted with frustration Arab countries' quest to acquire costly weapons but without directing them against the common enemy that continues to occupy Arab land.

The conference also noted with dismay disputes among Arab countries, notably between Syria and Iraq and between Morocco

and Algeria and the tragic situation of the Lebanese people, the statement added. It said that the participants noted with deep disappointment the plight of Arab peoples still facing social and political injustice and oppression in the Arab World and the corruption that has flourished in many Arab states.

The continuation of the present state of affairs in the Arab region, the statement said, can only bear the sign of a national catastrophe.

It said that Arab states acting individually can never overcome many of the chronic issues they face nor can they ensure national security for the Arab World.

Individual states unable to carry out reforms and comprehensive development constitute a real obstacle in the path of pan-Arab integration and progress, the statement said.

The conference urged the Syrian and Iraqi presidents to end their disputes and differences immediately and urged all public organisations in the Arab World to exercise pressure on the two presidents to reconcile and end the weakness of the Arab World.

The ongoing international developments and political changes in many parts of the world make it imperative on the Arab states to rise to the level of responsibility and interact in a positive manner with the world

changes, the statement stressed. It said that the Zionist challenge constitutes the gravest threat to the Arab Nation as a whole and the only key to end the Arab-Israeli conflict and ensure the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland was through building the Arab Nation's intrinsic power and adopting collective action emanating from a national stand based on the concept of safeguarding the Arab World's national interests.

The conference voiced support for the Casablanca and Taif resolutions on Lebanon and said that Arab countries have to cooperate in solving the Lebanese crisis.

The conference said that economic and social development in the Arab World was being hampered and this requires tremendous efforts on the part of all people and Arab countries to work towards integration with the Arab World.

According to Hamad Al Farhan, who was among the Jordanian group attending the conference, the meeting initiated by pan-Arab nationalist intellectuals with no official status or affiliation to a specific political group. The views of the participants, he said, were comprehensive and served as a broad set of ideas designed to help the Arab World achieve its national objectives.

Tourism revenues register increase

AMMAN (Petra) — The operational profits of the Tourist Investment Department (TID) in 1989 were JD 1,700,000 compared with the total profits made in the 1984-1988 period were JD 1,486,496, TID Director General Isma'il Sa'at Al Hassan said Friday.

In a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Hassan said special attention was being paid to the ancient city of Petra.

"Studies have proved that there is a possibility to attract larger numbers of tourists through establishing resthouses and expanding the already existing hotels," Hassan said. The TID had begun a JD 1,186,758 plan to expand the Petra Forum Hotel by 67 rooms and that the project is expected to be completed by early 1991, he said.

Another 45 rooms, Hassan said, will be added to the Petra resthouse at a cost of JD 1,047,566.

He noted that 95 per cent of the customers at the Petra resthouses and Petra Forum Hotel are

foreigners and that a high percentage of the rooms are occupied. The number of customers drops in summer, he said.

"Profits are expected to increase after the opening of the annexes in the Petra Forum Hotel and Petra resthouses since the majority of customers are foreigners who pay in foreign currency most of the time," he said. Furthermore, the majority of future customers are also expected to be foreigners and the drop in the dinar's rate of exchange will serve as a positive factor in attracting tourists and activating tourism," Hassan added.

"With the increasing demand for tourism trips to Jordan we have submitted a feasibility study to the Social Security Corporation board of directors to erect a new hotel in Aqaba to replace Aqaba Hotel which has 280 rooms," he said.

The TID has prepared several plans to develop hotel activities and tourist sites, improve the system of sales, and to pay special attention to training, he said.

Police to enforce seatbelt regulations

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Saturday launches an intensive campaign throughout the country to ensure that drivers and motorists are abiding by regulations concerning the use of seatbelts.

A statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that those found not wearing seatbelts on roads inside and outside city boundaries will be liable to paying fines ranging from JD 5 to JD 15.

The statement said the use of seatbelts was necessary to reduce losses in human life in road accidents, especially among those sitting in the front seats of vehicles.

Compulsory use of seatbelts came into effect February 1989 and it became mandatory for all

front-seat travellers and drivers; but pregnant women and passenger in the middle of the front seat of a taxi were exempted. The PSD said the use of seatbelts will remain optional for drivers of buses and pick-up trucks.

Newspaper columnists in Friday's press commended the PSD's measures to enforce the use of seatbelts, since this measure was bound to reduce the number of casualties. But they said that since driving at a relatively slow speed inside cities can be of no danger so traffic police attention in this regard should rather be shifted to the highways where motorists are bound to speed with some exceeding posted speed limits causing accidents.

Jobs available — Shreideh

IRBID (Petra) — Job opportunities in Jordan are available to those who wish to work in all fields and the government has adopted several measures to ensure jobs to Jordanians including withholding issuance of work permits to non-Jordanians, Minister of Social Development Abdul Majid Shreideh said Friday.

During a celebration held at Sal School in Irbid governorate to mark laying the cornerstone of a charity association in, Shreideh said: "There are about 200,000 foreign employees at a time there are 65,000 unemployed Jordanians who hold university certificates."

Blaming unemployment on the limited number of vacancies for holders of university certificates, Shreideh called on university graduates to take up any job until they have the opportunity to fill job vacancies suiting them.

He pointed out that the National Aid Fund takes care of 12,000 poor families and that it is willing to shoulder all poverty cases.

The JD 10,000 charity association building in Sal will accommodate all association activities in order to raise the living standards of rural women, and serve as venue for symposiums and lectures.

Housing Bank outlines strategy

AMMAN (Petra) — The Housing Bank has reduced interest rates and commissions on housing loans given to people from low-income groups, according to chairman of the board of directors and Director-General of the Housing Bank Zuhair Khouri.

"In mid-1989 and early 1990, the bank reduced interest rates and commissions on loans granted to low-income people to finance housing projects," despite the Central Bank of Jordan's decision to float interest rates, Khouri told Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Khouri defined the bank's strategy for the years to come, saying that it was based on "meeting all national development requirements... with concentration on the bank's role in meeting the housing needs of citizens particularly those with low income."

The Housing Bank came under heavy attack by parliamentarians recently because they charge the bank receives special tax breaks from the government which are not translated into low-interest loans.

Housing Bank branch man-

gers and directors held their bi-annual conference at the Housing Bank Complex Friday under the chairmanship of Khouri. The conference discussed the latest developments in the economic arena and the bank's strategy for the 1990s.

A statistical study by the bank showed that in 1989 the bank's contribution to development projects increased as the bank provided housing loans estimated at JD 50 million, and development loans estimated at JD 46 million. The bank also provided development facilities for housing and development purposes estimated at JD 33 million. The bank's housing, development, and facilities loans in 1989 amounted to JD 129 million.

The bank's deposits rose to JD 434 million in the late 1989 compared to JD 378 million the year before, the study said. In 1989, the bank opened 11 branches in various parts of the Kingdom and opened other three branches in remote areas. This makes the total number of Housing Bank branches in the Kingdom 99 which represents 39 per cent of the total number of branches of all other banks in the Kingdom.

Israel challenges U.S. criticism on Jerusalem

(Continued from page 1)

asked where Jerusalem ended and the West Bank began.

In his original statement which caused the row, Bush said:

"The foreign policy of the United States says we do not believe there should be new settlements in the West Bank or in East Jerusalem. And I will conduct that policy as if it's firm, which it is."

Questioned about a decision by the Israeli cabinet to put off until Sunday a decision on a U.S.-backed formula for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue leading to elections in

occupied territories, Fitzwater said "on the Israeli decision, obviously, we have been working with this problem for some period of time."

"There have been starts and stops and delays and we don't look upon these kinds of delays as being particularly good or bad. It's just, essentially, something that you live with. You keep going. You try not to read too much into them (the delays), because there have been so many of them. We'll stick with the process, and whether it's this week or next week or whenever, why, we'll continue to press for the talks."

Cigarette sales decline

(Continued from page 1)

economic straits in the Kingdom, and "the cost of production has increased."

Saad said the company pays for imported tobacco and primary products used in cigarette making such as filters, carton, cigarette paper, aluminium foil and poplax. "In hard currency," he said, "the cost of production has increased. Although an increase in the price of cigarettes went into effect in 1989, Saad explained that while the company was calling for a 50 per cent increase in the 110 file increase "we only got 18 file."

"Our call for 50 file was based upon studies aimed at determining the increase needed to cover our costs," he said.

He added that a major contributor to the decrease in local cigarette sales in the Kingdom "is the availability of imported cigarettes, customs-exempt as well as otherwise."

No definite figures are available on the volume or the amount Jordan pays annually for its imports of cigarettes, but observers noted that some brands appear in the market on an on-and-off basis, which encourage smugglers.

Saad argued that the customs on cigarettes imported by the Ministry of Supply "would not cover the government's 1989 losses of the tobacco company."

Another major problem facing the company is tied-up capital for

storing locally-grown tobacco.

"We have nearly 9,000 tonnes in store now which will cover our manufacturing needs for the next five years," Saad said. "But it places a high financial burden on us and on the tobacco farming fund."

"We are freezing our money," he said. "In addition, the stored tobacco is slowly losing all its qualities especially that its shelf-life is only four years," Saad explained.

The company, according to Saad, is seeking ways to reach solutions "which will guarantee the rights of the tobacco farmers and the cigarette-making establishment."

Although no solutions were proposed by Saad, he stressed that the company had been "very careful in maintaining good relationships with the tobacco farmers for the past 60 years" and wants to maintain this relationship.

Tobacco farming in Jordan, mainly in Balqa Governorate, is subsidised by a special fund which is financed by tobacco and cigarette consumers and "not the treasury."

Saad stressed that the company was looking "for fair treatment by the government."

He said that by placing a ceiling on the prices of cigarettes "the government is not allowing us to compete internationally."

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition by plastic artists Arij Al Hamed and Ibrahim Al Nabulsi at the Housing Bank Complex.
- ★ Art exhibition by seven Iraqi artists at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- ★ Exhibition of ceramics by Iraqi artist Shaim Al Sawadi at hotel Jordan Inter-Continental.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Mohammad Issa at the Royal Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

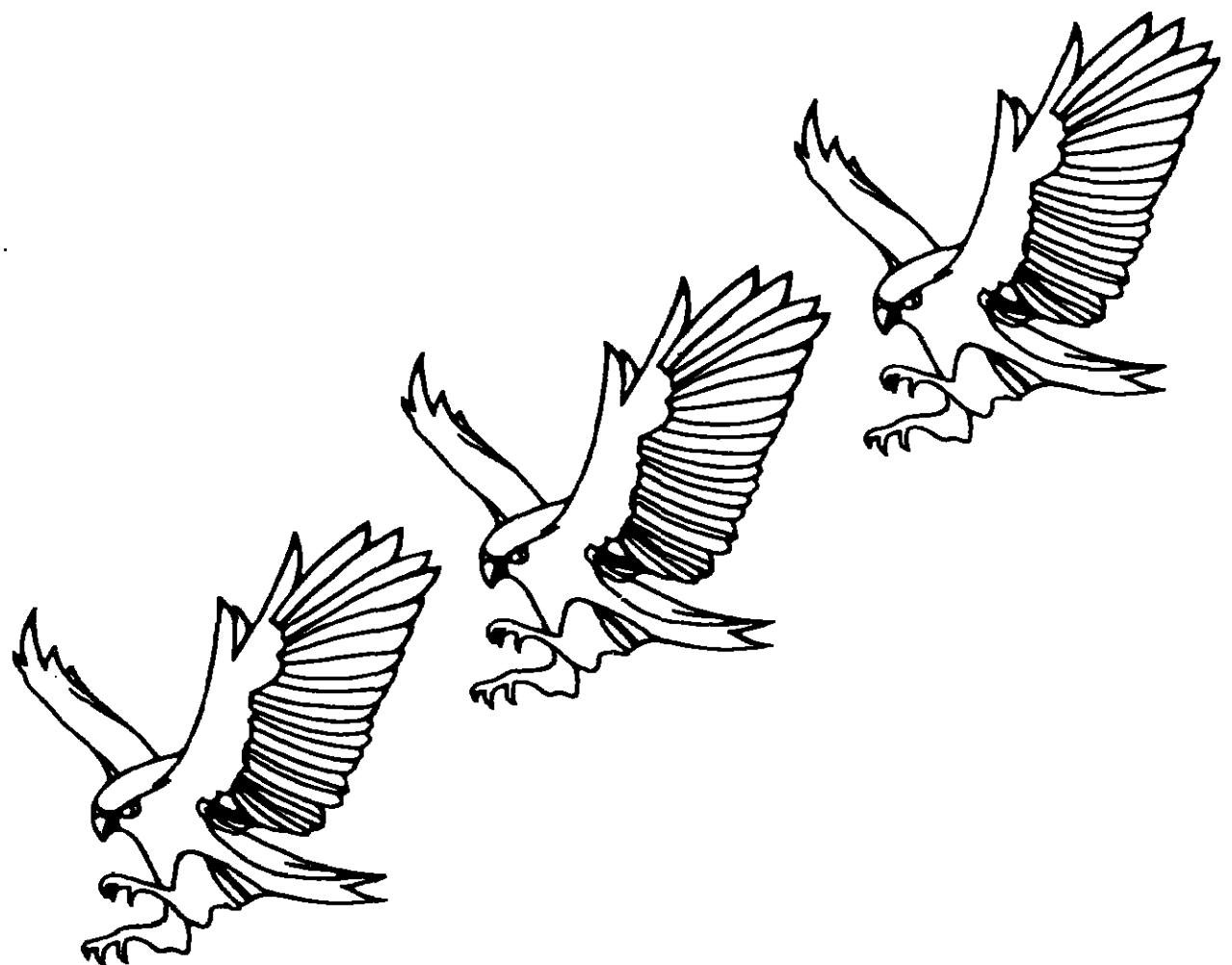
LECTURES

- ★ Lecture on "Muslim Architecture of the Hawran and Hama" Majak at Beira" by Prof. Dr. Michael Meisner at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.
- ★ Lecture, with slides, entitled "Medical Implications of Israeli Practices in Palestine" by Dr. Nasri Khouri at the YWCA — 7:00 p.m.

SEMINAR

- ★ Seminar entitled "Women and Politics" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation — 6:00 p.m.

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By Kamel S. Abu Jaber

Jordan Times

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New life and breath

ALL SIGNALS from within Israel and outside it indicate that Sunday's meeting of the Israeli inner cabinet will not produce a breakthrough as long expected but a possible breakdown in the peace process. What is envisioned now is the withdrawal of the Labour Party from the shaky coalition government in the aftermath of Likud's rejection of the Baker proposal for Palestinian-Israeli talks and what could happen next is anybody's guess. One thing is sure however: Many more months will be spent to put the Israeli house in order and this of course will spell another disaster for the search for peace in the Middle East. Meanwhile, the Israeli resolve to cling to Arab territories is being further bolstered and fortified by three principal developments: First, the continued Arab disunity and inability to resolve their deep-rooted difficulties and divisions on many fundamental issues. Secondly, the realignment in international power structure that ensued from the meltdown of the East-West rivalry has weakened the bargaining power of the Arab World to the point that few, if any, capitals now care much about Arab sentiments and opinions. Thirdly, the exodus of hundreds of thousands of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union and elsewhere has bolstered the Israeli confidence and ego to withstand anything that may come from the Arab World as it is presently constituted. The Arab response and reaction to massive immigration to Israel has been as usual long winded but short in actions. This is typical of Arab reactions to every danger and threat that came from Tel Aviv ever since its inception. Neither the style nor the content of Arab reaction to such dangers have changed over the past four or five decades. At least now the Arab World might want to be prepared for the eventuality that the peace process would just die away and there might be no hope to breathe new life into the quest for peaceful settlements of the broader Arab-Israeli conflicts, including the Palestinian problem, without a fundamental review of Arab strategies and tactics. Thus far, there are no signs that that is being contemplated. This is an added reason why a special Arab summit needs to be convened soon to examine the Arab options in the aftermath of the repeated setbacks to the Arab World's policies and aspirations.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

AL RA'I daily on Friday referred to King Hussein's statement in the French daily Le Figaro in which he blamed the United States for the current crisis triggered by the influx of Jews into Palestine. The paper said that Washington shoulders a grave responsibility in this regard, because it had barred Soviet Jews from emigrating to the United States, forcing them to go to Israel and eventually settling in the occupied Arab lands. The paper said that Washington's attitude was politically motivated: to help the Jewish state absorb more immigrants and settlers, and help Israel and its leaders maintain their expansionist policies in the Arab region. Apart from allowing Israel to muster sufficient manpower to carry out expansionist plans, the United States has also been intent on maintaining an economic, military and financial aid programme to Israel to help provide it with the proper tools for expansion and aggression, the paper noted. As Washington continues to brag about its intention to help the Middle East enjoy peace, it should take practical and meaningful steps towards achieving that goal, the paper added. The Arabs on their part, the paper said, should find the proper means of defending themselves and to fend off this looming danger with all their power and by all possible means.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily newspaper casts doubt on the benefits which Jordan can gain from a new 1991-1995 national development plan which is currently being contemplated by the Ministry of Planning. Faded Al Faneek says that such a plan could be no more than a re-print of the economic restructuring programme undertaken by the government and approved by the Lower and Upper House of Parliament. The writer says that three consecutive governments in Jordan have committed themselves to implementing the programme which was agreed on with the International Monetary Fund and which will take several years to carry out; and therefore, a new national development plan could be existing only on paper. He notes that the country is not in need of the coming five years, because it is already tied up by the economic programme and has already pledged to restrict spending and end borrowing so as to achieve the objectives of the economic programme and attain the aspired goals and results. Furthermore, the writer notes, that many countries in the world had discovered that centralised planning can seldom succeed, and adds that developing nations like Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong have succeeded in making an economic miracle only when they decentralised planning and when they created opportune climates for investment.

Al Dstour daily on Friday also dwelt on King Hussein's statements to the French newspaper, and said that it is now clear that the United States' continued pressure on the Soviet Union over the past years has borne fruit and opened the door for the mass immigration of Jews into Palestine. The United States has been exercising pressure on the Russians under the pretext of defending human rights, but once the door for emigration was opened, Washington closed its doors in the face of the Jews, thus forcing them to go to Israel, the paper pointed out. It said that the United States which has advocated the cause of human rights for so long, has suddenly turned against this dogma and went back on all its principles, merely to help Israel achieve its goals. The paper said that the United States also tends to forget the principle of human rights if those rights pertain to the Palestinian people.

View from Amman

"Marxism: end of ideology?" — Part II

MARXISM did not end in Malta. What ended there was the repressive nature of the Communist State, and the prominent role that the Soviet Union used to play in world affairs. The genius of Karl Marx was that he articulated, like no other man before, the hopes and the aspirations of the then newly emerging labour class, the proletariat. In the tradition of the French philosopher Rousseau, his call for the workers of the world to unite was to liberate, not enslave the people as the Stalinist state later did; a state that added to the earlier chains, more chains. For eventually the Iron Curtain became an iron cage for the very people that the system was supposed to liberate. And as the curtain was established, it tended not only to isolate and insulate but to stifle the soul, until most initiative and independent thinking was crushed. The folly of attempting to keep out ideas and to maintain internal purity was bound to lead to great damage. For to interact with others is not only a challenge to the mind, but also helps in building the immunity of the system.

Within a few weeks after assuming power in March 1985 Michael Gorbachev wondered whether an ideology laid down a century ago still holds validity now. This questioning lies at the foundation of all that has taken place in the Soviet Union, the Eastern bloc, indeed the world at large. The question also relates to the very nature of the revolution itself. Can anything, even a revolution, put a stamp of respectability on violence? Mr. Gorbachev seems to be saying that all things are impermanent. In saying so he is in total agreement with Aristotle who once stated that the only constants in life are time and change.

Probably the most startling statement made by Mr. Gorbachev is that the knowledge of yesterday was for yesterday's purposes. Should an attempt be made to make knowledge rigidly valid for all time, it will soon turn into a yoke around the neck and a tether tying down the mind when everything else moves. It should be

remembered that it takes a great amount of daring and courage to lift the yoke off and to untie one's mind and soul. People not only fancy the routine but feel very comfortable in the mould and the pattern it soon creates. The curious thing is that the process of change was commenced by the very man who was its product. All previous Soviet leaders were born before the revolution. How is it that only Gorbachev — who does not know personally what existed before 1917 — realised what the hardening of the ideological arteries was doing to his people, his nation?

Not only did the statue of Lenin in Gdansk, Poland, come down but demonstrators in Moscow earlier in February were shouting the slogan, "down with the KGB." On Feb. 2, 1990 they demanded that all the leaders of the Communist Party resign. Almost everywhere, the once mighty Communist Party finds itself compelled not only to share power but also to defend itself. The statues that once were symbols of change, turned in time to idols of worship. And as happens with most rigid ideologies, people soon forget what they are worshiping and become slaves for the symbols themselves. The idea turns into a cult and the cult develops ceremony and ritual that overtake the spirit of the original ideology. Once that takes place the society begins to live on borrowed time; in a state of suspended animation.

One of the most touching scenes was the spectacle of a whole population; that of East Germany, simply walking off leaving their country. Zhivkov, Ceausescu, Honecker and other idols, once on pedestals, have already turned into villains to be hounded for the sin of maintaining the captivity of their people for so long.

Is Gorbachev still a Marxist? The question is an impossible one; for the man himself, I am sure, must, at times, wonder. And now that he entered the temple and smashed all the idols, what did he give his people in return? For while the system corrupted the humanist dimension of Marxism it was, nevertheless, highly

entertained with it. What are the people to believe in now? Several generations of Soviet people grew up knowing and respecting nothing but the system in which they found themselves. At the same time they were made to believe that all else was evil. Liberalism, political and economic, they were taught, was not only decadent, greedy, corrupting but war-mongering and destructive too. The transition from one end of the spectrum to the other must be agonising. How does the average Soviet citizen feel now?

Once again, it needs to be emphasised that it was not so much the failure of the idea as much as it is the failure of the system around which the idea was established. Class replaced class and privilege replaced privilege. When Milorad Djilas, though a good Marxist, pointed out that his very good friend Tito put him in jail. Violence turned inwards and the revolution began to eat its own children. But then again, is it only the tool, the government machinery, the system that has failed? Or are there basic structural flaws in the very Marxist analysis itself? The question is of immense importance to the Soviets and others as well. The truth might not be here nor there but somewhere else; and in questioning what is taking place one needs to analyse the basic assumptions, and ideas upon which the whole system stood.

The house of cards fell so quickly not only because it turned man into a one dimensional creature happily immersed into its material comforts, but also because it was structured around one man. In being so, and though proclaiming itself progressive, it became in actuality an archaic anachronistic system. That is why all the centrifugal forces from within and all the mighty armies of the West from without could not bring about the downfall of the system, but one man could. Though the names may differ, all dictatorial one-man-show systems have one thing in common: when they begin to collapse they do so quickly and spectacularly.

A chance for some serious diplomacy in the Middle East

By George P. Shultz

DIPLOMACY has become a neglected dimension of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The circuits in recent years have been overloaded with calls for aggressively simply but practically unrealistic approaches:

— Some want an all-encompassing solution dictated or imposed from the outside or by an international conference;

— Some say that military strength alone can induce the other parties to make accommodations;

— Some are convinced that only through an almost endless evolutionary process enhancing mutual understanding can the adversaries be reconciled;

— Some argue that "a just and lasting peace" is farcical; better to write off the peace process as a delusion under any conceivable circumstance.

But all the while the work of diplomacy has gone on. Even those periods when one or another party has stood aside or even for a time "bowed out" have often served to make a diplomatic point and transform attitudes towards greater realism. Sometimes quiet diplomacy has been in order, but the dearth of news has led observers to complain that the peace process is not getting the attention it warrants. And sometimes, as is now the case, the tactics of diplomacy seem so convoluted, and the pathway ahead so long and roundabout, that media coverage flags and commentators despair that any serious work is underway.

Over the years, however, diplomacy has brought solid achievements:

— The foundation stones for a negotiated solution, U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, with their concept of "territory for peace" have been accepted by all the parties, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation in 1988.

— The disengagement agreements between Syria and Israel and Egypt and Israel that emerged from secretary of state Henry Kissinger's shuttle diplomacy in 1973-1974 proved that negotiations can work between even the most bitter foes.

At Camp David, in September 1978, President Carter, Prime Minister Begin and President Sadat put together an approach that meets both Israel's need for a step-by-step period of confidence-building cooperation and the Arab need for a comprehensive final outcome.

— The 1979 treaty of peace between Egypt and Israel, the continuing successful multinational peacekeeping effort in the Sinai and the negotiated return of Tabat to Egyptian sovereignty in 1988 proved that peace is possible and can be maintained even in the face of great pressures.

— President Reagan's Sept. 1, 1982, comprehensive Middle East peace initiative set out an important concept: any party could come to the negotiating table with any position; that is, the gaps should be narrowed in direct negotiation without endless pre-negotiation bickering.

— The United States in 1988 set forth the idea of an "interlock" between the transitional period during which Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza would start to take responsibility for their own affairs and the guaranteed start of negotiations to determine the final status of those territories. Transitional arrangements would benefit from the interplay with final status negotiations. If Israelis gain con-

fidence from Palestinian conduct during the transition period, Palestinians have a right to expect a positive Israeli approach to the principles that will define the final settlement.

And Israel's May 14, 1989, proposal, for elections in the West Bank and Gaza to select Palestinians who would negotiate with Israel, an idea apparently accepted by the PLO, now provides the focal point of efforts to advance the Arab-Israeli peace process. The United States has worked hard to foster this important initiative.

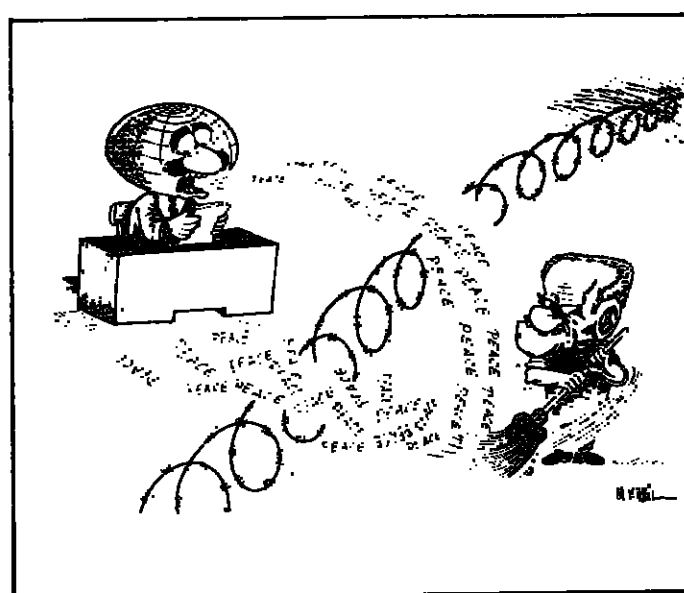
The Arabs and Israelis have come a long way from "the three nos" stated by the Arabs in Khartoum in the wake of the 1967 war — no recognition, no negotiation, no peace. Today the prospects for diplomacy are promising, though the old enmities within the Palestinian and Israeli camps are still in play and still inhibit decisions that new conditions demand.

There is no standing still in the Middle East. Yet both sides always find reasons to assert that time is on their side. Today Palestinians can point to the expression of long-suppressed nationalism in the Soviet republics and to South Africa's lifted ban on the African National Congress — and feel that history is with them. Israelis can point to the great movement to Israel of Soviet Jews as one of the most important events in the history of the state of Israel — and feel that history is with them. The legitimate rights of the Palestinian people should be attained. And the flow of immigration to Israel should continue unimpeded. But neither should be taken for granted. The Arabs' tendency has been to urge the outside world to impose a solution; the Israelis' tendency has been to court outside support without accompanying outside influence. In the 1990s neither side will lie in. Hard decisions will have to be made and long-held priorities ranked anew.

The stakes for this effort are particularly high at this moment because the world is shifting gears. The changes happening in the Soviet Union and in Eastern Europe are dramatic evidence of this. We are moving into a more open world, to a knowledge and information age. It requires imaginative and innovative leadership that has a capacity to be decisive — to take a tough political position and rally people to support it. If the Middle East is to keep up with the rest of the world, the peace process is a matter of necessity.

In the Middle East today, leaders who don't find their footing in the new facts of life risk real losses for their peoples and causes. What are the new facts of life? In the realm of the military and defence, old assumptions are dead. Those on the Arab side, notably Syria, who have long pursued the chimera of military parity with Israel can no longer ignore the futility of that notion. The near-automatic support from the Communist world for the anti-Israeli camp is gone. The Communist camp is no more. Even the most diehard Israeli-haters must concede that there can be no military option.

The Israelis, who have displayed discomfort at the idea of American support founded on moral commitment, preferring strategic cooperation grounded in the adversarial relationship of the superpowers, must reassess the changing global strategic environment. And Israel's long-dedication to keeping a clear technolo-



gical edge over its Arab opponents must face the fact that the combination of ballistic missile proliferation and chemical and biological weapons changes the military picture in the region.

Both sides must know another war in the region would be devastating; no sane leadership would consider it. This is not a matter of military parity but of the inescapable reality that traditional concepts of security, "territorial depth," and borders as barriers have lost any standing in this world of new and widely available weapons.

Today, the meaning of borders is changing, and so is the notion of sovereignty. The irrepressible movement of ideas, people and goods requires political and eco-

nomics openness from leaders. In Europe and elsewhere, new arrangements are taking shape that share, limit or disperse the traditional attributes of sovereignty. In the Middle East, comprehensive peace between Israel and all its neighbours, achieved through negotiations based on Resolutions 242 and 338, requiring the exchange of territory for peace, will also require recognition that sovereignty cannot be defined in absolute terms. In today's world, peoples will have a right to define themselves, but not to wall themselves off.

In these territories a vision is needed that transcends the boundaries of traditional nation-states and addresses the clear

requirements for the parties' security, political voice, economic opportunity and community life on an equal basis. Constructs based on absolute sovereignty and rigid borders cannot provide this vision.

The paradox is that just as the concept of the traditional nation-state is fading in Europe it is ever more the cherished aspiration of peoples in the Middle East. A fresh approach is needed now.

— Security for Israel must extend beyond the old demarcation lines.

— Territory cannot be the possession of one side only when water, power and communications must be regulated on a regional basis.

— Political rights — citizenship, self-government, international recognition — can be separated from territorial claims and mixed in various ways.

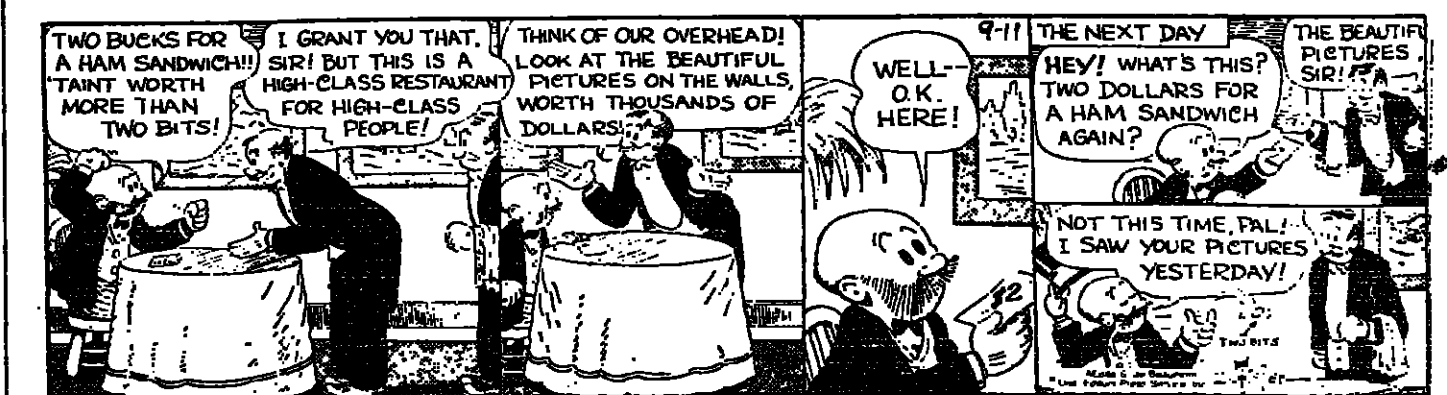
— A little creativity about new mixes of sovereignty might help move the peace process forward right now. The juxtaposition of territory for peace need not be a matter of where to draw lines, but how to divide responsibilities. The diplomatic effort now going on has been disparaged in the press as "diplomacy carried to the edge of force," that is, as negotiations are conducted to select negotiators to negotiate on how to run an election to produce negotiators who would then start negotiating on the real issues. The issues are incredibly complex and the emotions almost unbearably painful and powerful. Time and attention to details are

needed to work through these matters. It may well be that the most intractable issues can be approached only through indirect and nonbinding steps of mutual acquiescence. The proposed talks on how to carry out elections in the territories provide precisely this setting and opportunity. The current diplomatic process provides a way to build on the achievements of the past and address the changed context of the present and future.

What has been going on in a peace process over the years is the recognition and acceptance of the irreducible fundamentals for forward motion. Israel's election proposal and the PLO's acceptance of it have taken this long search down to the bedrock of the issue. The parties are now staring at the ultimate reality: direct negotiations between the parties most directly involved, and elections are the unavoidable first step.

The immediate next step is for the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers and the American secretary of state to meet to discuss the election. As always, there are plenty of other vital concerns — among them terrorism, domestic politics and settlements — that must be addressed. Too often in the past the main chance has not been grasped because one or another such concern has come to the fore and pushed the peace process aside. This is another of those moments when leaders must avoid diversion to a bypath and stick to the main route ahead — The Washington Post.

Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



LA SEMAINE DE...

Suleiman Swais

Pourquoi lisons-nous si peu?

La semaine dernière, le deuxième "Salon International du Livre" (SIL) a fermé ses portes à Amman. L'heure est donc au bilan. Selon les organisateurs de l'exposition, les Jordanais ont acheté moins de livres cette année qu'en 1989. Aucun détail n'a été fourni et l'on s'est contenté de dire que près de 100.000 personnes ont visité le SIL en 10 jours. On a expliqué la baisse des chiffres d'affaires par l'impact de la crise économique sur la population.

En fait, cette explication a besoin d'être quelque peu corrigée. Il faut d'abord noter que les prix des ouvrages ont presque doublé par rapport à l'année dernière. Un certain nombre de visiteurs, interviewés par un quotidien local, se sont plaints de cette hausse des prix. J'ai visité le salon en famille il y a deux semaines et, à ma grande surprise, j'ai payé 20 dinars pour quelques livres, tous en arabe.

J'ai également remarqué que les prix étaient marqués... en dollars, sur des livres importés de Syrie ou du Liban. Tout se passe donc comme si le billet vert avait "misé" les marchés arabes du livre, dans le domaine monétaire.

La vérité ne tient pas que dans cette seule constatation. Pourquoi ne pas le reconnaître? Nous ne sommes pas de grands lecteurs... Même si certains responsables se vantent parfois du grand nombre de diplômés jordaniens. Et le facteur économique n'est pas, en l'occurrence, le seul responsable de cette situation.

Les statistiques nous apprennent notamment que, même quand la Jordanie vivait une prospérité économique extraordinaire, à la fin des années 1970 et au début des années 1980, nos concitoyens ne se ruissaient pas dans les librairies. Ceux qui avaient de l'argent préféraient alors fréquenter les bons restaurants ou les boutiques de vêtements et se laisser plus attirer, le soir, par la vidéo que par la lecture.

A l'origine de ce triste état de fait, il y a l'absence quasi totale de toute politique culturelle réelle. Dans nos traditions récentes, le livre reste avant tout le manuel scolaire. On l'étudie pour passer l'examen de fin d'année et obtenir de bonnes notes. Après, on le jette à la poubelle.

Ici, nous concevons le savoir et la culture en fonction d'un travail, d'un poste quelconque ou d'une promotion. Jamais, ou trop rarement, comme "une lumière qui éclaire la vie" ou comme un facteur indispensable au développement de la



Suleiman Swais

conscience des individus tout comme au développement de la société en général. Le budget réservé à la culture proprement dite est dérisoire (723.000 dinars en 1990), alors que l'on consacre des sommes exorbitantes à d'autres domaines moins essentiels. La production intellectuelle est maigre (voir "Le Jourdain" du 17 février) et nous n'avons pratiquement pas de revues hebdomadaires ou mensuelles de qualité, auxquelles le grand public s'intéresse, comme dans les autres pays.

La lecture des journaux quotidiens ne touche que 16% de la population, dans le meilleur des cas. Les intellectuels jouent un rôle minime dans les affaires du pays. Quant à ceux qui s'engagent parmi ces derniers, ils n'ont eu jusqu'à présent que le choix entre la prison, la pauvreté ou l'exil.

La télévision, qui est censée jouer un rôle "culturel" demeure plus un moyen de distraction. 80% de ses programmes se composent de feuilletons, de films arabes (surtout égyptiens) et étrangers (principalement américains), de sports, d'information et de variétés. Des programmes "culturels" au sens restreint du terme.

Il faudra incontestablement faire un gros effort pour rendre la culture plus populaire et efficace dans notre société. La tâche est d'autant plus d'actualité que nous sommes entrés en 1989 dans la décennie dite du "développement culturel", décrétée par l'ONU dans le monde entier.

L'ancien ministre de la Culture, M. Hammouri, avait formé en septembre 1988 une commission pour définir la contribution jordanienne à cette décennie. Depuis, elle ne s'est jamais manifestée. Peut-être les résultats du SIL la sortiront-ils de son sommeil.

Les fresques de Qoseir Amra passées au peigne fin

Refaire les gestes des peintres omeyyades

Depuis près d'un an, le Département des Antiquités et l'Institut français d'archéologie au Proche-Orient ont entrepris le recensement systématique des peintures murales des thermes omeyyades de Qoseir Amra, à l'est d'Amman. Un énorme travail de copie

grandeur nature, dont le tiers est aujourd'hui achevé. Objectif de l'étude: tenter de comprendre le sens d'une décoration omniprésente et les sources d'inspiration artistiques de l'époque, en refaisant les gestes des peintres. Douze siècles après eux.

Construit par les Omeyyades au cours de la première moitié du VIII^e siècle, à des kilomètres de toute habitation ancienne connue, le "château" d'Amra (*) est loin d'avoir livré tous ses secrets. Ainsi de ceux, que recèlent ses extraordinaires peintures murales. Extraordinaires par leur richesse et leur étendue: elles recouvrent en effet l'intégralité des murs intérieurs des thermes.

En mai 1989, le Département des Antiquités a décidé de se mettre à l'ouvrage en demandant à l'antenne jordanienne de l'Institut français d'archéologie au Proche-Orient (IFAPO) de recenser le répertoire iconographique des thermes. Une tâche imposante, confiée à un jeune archéologue français, Claude Vibert-Guigue.

"Les peintures de Qoseir Amra ont déjà fait l'objet d'études, notamment de la part d'Alois Musil, un voyageur autrichien érudit, qui les redécouvrit en 1898, précise Ghazi Bisheh, le directeur des Antiquités jordanien. "Mais c'est la première fois que nous nous lançons dans une étude scientifique exhaustive."

Approximations et dégradations. Non que le travail de Musil ait été inutile. Intrigué par la beauté et le remarquable état de conservation des décorations intérieures des thermes omeyyades, ce dernier revint à deux reprises sur le site, la dernière fois en compagnie d'un peintre, qui recopia les fresques. Avec plus ou moins de réussite cependant.

"Le dessin n'est pas toujours très précis et les éléments des peintures détruits par le temps ont parfois été interprétés de façon abusive", souligne Claude Vibert-Guigue, en feuilletant un recueil de photographies des planches de Musil et de son assistant, publiées en 1907 par l'Académie de Vienne. A ces approximations, sans doute plus inhérentes aux moyens limités des deux hommes qu'à leur amateurisme, se sont ajoutées des pratiques plus ennuyantes pour les chercheurs d'aujourd'hui. "Musil a voulu remporter une partie des fresques avec lui, ajoute l'archéologue français. Il les a découpées par plaques d'environ 20 centimètres sur 30. Il n'y est pas toujours parvenu, comme en témoignent les murs en plusieurs endroits".

Les amputations et les mutilations des peintures dues à Musil ne sont pas les seules dégradations dont ait souffert le château d'Amra. Pendant plusieurs décennies, les feux de camp des bédouins, qui dressaient leurs tentes près du monument, l'ont eux aussi endommagé, couvrant les parois de noir de fumée. Tout comme les graffiti de visiteurs peu scrupuleux.

De 1971 à 1973, cependant, une équipe espagnole du musée de Madrid a été chargée par le



Qoseir Amra: des murs aux formes grossières, qui abritent des fresques de toute beauté.

400 mètres carrés de peintures. "Pour y parvenir, il faut un relevé systématique des décorations, autrement dit passer au peigne fin les 400 mètres carrés de peintures intérieures du château", assure Claude Vibert-Guigue, à qui cette mission colossale a été confiée. Car pour disposer d'une base solide de travail, c'est à une copie grandeur nature qu'il s'est attelé depuis bientôt un an.

Sa technique? J'applique directement sur les murs de grandes feuilles verticales de plastique transparent, qui atteignent 6 mètres de hauteur sur 1,40 de largeur. Elles sont maintenues

initiale, les feuilles sont ramenées à l'IFAPO et découpées en rectangles de deux mètres de longueur. Elles passent ensuite dans un bain de reproduction photographique, réduites au quart. Les clichés transluces obtenus sont enfin ré-assemblés sur de grandes planches. "Le tiers de la mission est aujourd'hui achevé, souligne Claude Vibert-Guigue. Ça représente 110 mètres de dessins sur plastique et 300 réductions".

L'archéologue français a en outre du pain sur la planche. "La mise au net des premiers relevés touche à sa fin. "Dans les jours qui viennent, je vais m'attaquer au deuxième tiers des fresques". Ce n'est qu'une fois répertoriée l'intégralité des peintures, que leur étude pourra véritablement commencer.

"On sait d'ores et déjà que l'inspiration des peintres des thermes puise dans le répertoire mythologique romain et dans l'iconographie byzantine. Il est également acquis qu'ils travaillaient en équipes. Un artisan posait l'enduit, un autre traçait un canevas, tandis qu'un troisième préparait les couleurs. Le suivant se chargeait des décors d'arrière plan avant que n'intervienne le peintre des personnages", précise-t-il.

Reste à découvrir le sens que donnaient les omeyyades à ces représentations, ou à se faire une idée de la qualité de ces artistes du VIII^e siècle. "Refaire leurs gestes me permet d'imaginer ce qu'ils pouvaient sentir, de réfléchir à leurs conditions de travail", poursuit Claude Vibert-Guigue. Quant à l'explication du choix souvent audacieux et raffiné des couleurs, elle réside peut-être dans les propos d'un philosophe arabe, que Ghazi Bisheh avait notés en 1987: "Tous les médecins, les sages et personnes avisées s'accordent à reconnaître que la vue de beaux tableaux réjouit et rafraîchit l'âme et écarte d'elle les pensées mélancoliques, fortifie le cœur plus que toute autre chose pourrait le faire, parce qu'elle dérive de toute influence néfaste".

Alain Renon. (*) Qoseir Amra se situe à environ 80 kilomètres à l'est d'Amman. On y accède par l'autoroute depuis Sahab en direction de l'oasis d'Azraq.

par des cintres souples en aluminium. Puis je dessine au feutre sur ce calque géant", explique-t-il. Un dessin, qui recense les peintures, mais aussi les lacunes et les graffiti. "Ces derniers peuvent nous aider à dater avec précision la construction, puis l'abandon des thermes. J'en ai trouvés qui pourraient d'ailleurs remonter à l'époque omeyyade. Les inscriptions nous renseignent également sur les périodes de fréquentation du site."

Une fois terminée cette phase

EN BREF

Manifestation. Près de mille étudiants jordaniens ont manifesté mercredi durant deux heures sur le campus de l'université d'Amman, pour protester contre l'immigration massive des juifs soviétiques en Israël. "Le Jihad est notre voie" et "Nous sommes les hommes de Hamas" (le mouvement musulman fondamentaliste de la Bande de Gaza) figuraient en tête des slogans inscrits sur les calicots ou scandés par les manifestants, qui ont également dénoncé les politiques américaine et soviétique au Proche-Orient.

Amnesty. Le prince héritier, Hassan ibn Talal, a reçu mercredi à Amman le secrétaire général d'Amnesty International, Ian Martin, en visite en Jordanie. Le prince Hassan a notamment affirmé à son interlocuteur le "souti de la Jordanie de renforcer le processus démocratique et de sauvegarder les libertés publiques et les droits de l'Homme". M. Martin a pour sa part souligné "les efforts déployés" dans ce sens par les autorités du royaume depuis les élections législatives de novembre dernier.

Droits de l'Homme. L'état des droits de l'Homme dans le monde arabe a été au centre des débats de l'assemblée générale de l'Organisation arabe des droits de l'Homme (OADH), réunie mercredi et jeudi à Tunis. Plusieurs délégués des sections nationales, dont les représentants de la toute jeune organisation jordanienne (voir "Le Jourdain" du 3 mars) participaient à ce congrès. Le deuxième depuis la création de l'OADH en 1983 à Chypre.

Otages. Le président iranien a accredité mercredi soir la thèse d'une prochaine libération des 17 otages occidentaux (huit Américains, trois Britanniques, deux Allemands, deux Suisses, un Irlandais et un Italien) du Liban, en déclarant à la télévision nationale avoir le "sentiment" que "le problème était en passe de trouver une solution". Mais Ali Akbar Hachemi-Rafsanjani n'a donné aucune date. Samedi dernier, cependant, le quotidien des durs du régime, "Kahyan International", avait indiqué qu'elle pourrait intervenir avant le milieu de l'été. M. Rafsanjani a dans le même temps démenti, à l'instar de Washington, que ce dénouement passerait par des négociations avec les Etats-Unis, rappelant que l'affaire des otages "ne concernait pas du tout" Téhéran. De son côté, l'Organisation de la Justice Révolutionnaire (OJR), qui détient deux ressortissants américains, a affirmé le même jour que ces derniers ne seraient pas libérés sans satisfaction de ses exigences.

Kaboul. La capitale afghane était calme hier pour la deuxième journée consécutive après l'écrasement, annoncé par les forces loyalistes, d'un coup d'Etat fomenté par une fraction de l'armée dirigée par l'ex-ministre de la Défense, le général Shah Nawaz Tanai. Marchés et administrations avaient rouvert leurs portes jeudi, 48 heures après la tentative de putsch, qui aurait fait plusieurs centaines de morts et de blessés à Kaboul.

Islam. Le ministre français de l'Intérieur, Pierre Joxe, également chargé des cultes, a institué mardi un "Conseil de réflexion sur l'Islam en France". Cette décision fait suite à une réunion entre M. Joxe et les six "sages" musulmans, qu'il avait désignés en novembre 1989 pour réfléchir à l'organisation de la communauté musulmane, qu'il avait désignés en novembre 1989 pour réfléchir à l'organisation de la communauté musulmane de France. L'objectif de ce conseil, qui se réunira dès le 17 mars, est de créer une instance de dialogue avec les pouvoirs publics, qui soit représentative des quelque trois millions de musulmans vivant dans l'Hexagone.

"Force Unie". C'est le nom donné par Michel Noir et François Léotard (députés et anciens ministres conservateurs français) au mouvement politique qu'ils ont lancé mardi dernier. Le lendemain, neuf parlementaires ont annoncé leur adhésion à cette nouvelle structure, parmi lesquels deux sénateurs de l'UDF (droite libérale), José Balarcello et Jean-Claude Gaudin.

Retour. Le groupe agro-alimentaire français Perrier a commencé mardi à réapprovisionner ses distributeurs dans le monde entier, trois semaines après avoir retiré de la vente quelque 160 millions de bouteilles. La nouvelle cuvée porte la mention "Nouvelle Production" et est accompagnée d'une vaste campagne publicitaire internationale. Disponibles depuis mercredi en France, la fameuse eau pétillante sera de retour dans la plupart des pays européens début avril. Perrier avait décidé de retirer sa boisson fétiche des marchés le 14 février, après la découverte de traces trop fortes de benzène dans certaines bouteilles distribuées aux Etats-Unis.

Obus. Plusieurs centaines d'obus et autres engins explosifs de la seconde guerre mondiale ont été retrouvés le week-end dernier sur les plages françaises de la Manche. Selon la préfecture maritime de Cherbourg (Normandie), la récente et violente tempête, qui a touché la côte ouest du pays, est à l'origine de cette découverte. Certains obus et mines ont été désamorçés. Les autres ont été rassemblés pour être détruits.

En souffrance. Les listes d'attente des personnes devant être opérées dans les hôpitaux britanniques se sont encore allongées en 1989, dépassant pour la première fois le million de patients, selon un rapport de l'association nationale "Collège de la Santé", publié jeudi à Londres. Selon cette enquête, 26% des malades devant être hospitalisés et 16% de ceux qui peuvent être traités en une journée ont attendu plus d'un an avant de pouvoir être soignés.

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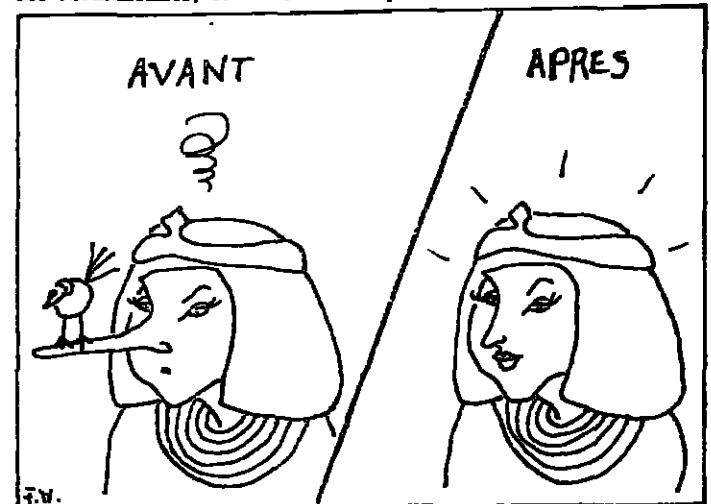
1.500 à 2.000 opérations par an en Jordanie

La chirurgie esthétique a la cote

Née au début des années 1980 dans le royaume, la chirurgie esthétique est en pleine expansion. Un «boom» discret mais constant, qui se traduit aujourd'hui par 1.500 à 2.000 interventions annuelles. Un chiffre qui aura doublé en l'an 2000, si l'on en croit son précurseur, le docteur Ghazi Shubailat.

Lifting, remodelage du nez, des lèvres, du front, du coin des yeux, subtiles escamotages de menus défauts des poitrines féminines et incontournables ablations des «poignées d'amour» trop saillantes... La coquetterie des Jordanien(ne)s, et des Jorda-

niens, n'a rien à envier à celle des Européens ou des Américains. Hommes et femmes confondus, ils sont entre 1.500 et 2.000, qui frappent annuellement à la porte des quelque 15 cabinets privés de chirurgie esthétique du royaume.



En tête des requêtes: les changements de nez et les «liposuctions», non barbare d'une technique de prélèvement des graisses superflues. «C'est un procédé simple que j'utilise depuis maintenant quatre ans. On se sert de canules métalliques, qui aspirent les sels de la peau, responsables des rondeurs», explique le docteur Ghazi Shubailat, grand précurseur de la chirurgie plastique dans le pays.

Son nom reste en effet attaché aux débuts de cette médecine de confort dans la région, il y a à peine 6 ans. «Ainsi que celui de notre doyen, le docteur Farid Yaghnam, qui fut le tout premier à pratiquer cette spécialité», précise-t-il. Une spécialité, dont le docteur Shubailat aime à rappeler qu'elle doit tout au choix des deux médecins d'implanter en Jordanie la chirurgie reconstructive. «Quand nous nous sommes spécialisés, dans les années 1970,

c'était, pour introduire ici un service hospitalier capable de traiter les grands brûlés, les blessés de la route, ou encore de faire face aux cancers et aux amputations mineures». C'est chose faite depuis 1978, date à laquelle fut ouvert au Centre médical royal le «Pavillon Farah de réhabilitation», «le mieux équipé et le plus compétent du monde arabe», assure-t-il. Il est vrai qu'il dispose aujourd'hui d'une équipe de chirurgiens, d'infirmières et d'aides-soignants parfaitement formés et désormais rompus aux techniques des greffes et de la micro-chirurgie.

Retraité de l'armée depuis 1984, le docteur Shubailat est cependant le premier à avoir ouvert une clinique privée de chirurgie esthétique, la même année, près de l'hôpital Khaladi de Djebel Amman. C'est d'ail-

leurs là qu'il opère ses patients, quand il ne peut disposer d'une salle à l'hôpital Palestinien de Smeisani. Depuis, les affaires vont bon train. «Dans l'armée, la partie purement esthétique de la chirurgie plastique ne représente que 15% du travail. Dans le privé, elle dépasse les 60%», assure-t-il.

A l'en croire, ces chiffres ne feront que croître dans le futur. «Avant l'an 2000, le nombre de patients aura doublé». Et ce, malgré le prix élevé des opérations. Remodeler un nez coûte ainsi, en moyenne, de 800 à 1.500 dinars. Des tarifs certes bien moins forts qu'en Europe en valeur absolue, mais qui délestent promptement le portefeuille du Jordanien moyen. «La prospérité de ce secteur vient surtout du fait que ce n'est plus un tabou. Les gens avouent facilement de nos jours, qu'ils sont passés entre les mains d'un chirurgien esthétique».

Seule inquiétude pour le docteur Shubailat: que l'engouement de ses concitoyens ne donne lieu à des promesses douteuses et à des scandales. «Pour l'instant, nous contrôlons bien notre travail et les exigences des patients sont la plupart du temps raisonnables, affirme-t-il. J'ai pour ma part arrêté d'accepter d'opérer les gens qui me demandent à tout prix un nez retroussé «à l'euro-péenne». Parce qu'il faut épouser les lignes des visages et ne pas faire n'importe quoi. Reste à savoir si tous ses collègues respecteront eux-aussi cette éthique.

A.R.

Diplomatie

Le roi Hussein à Paris

Le roi Hussein a achevé mercredi une visite officielle de deux jours en France, où il s'est notamment entretenu avec le président François Mitterrand, le chef du gouvernement et les ministres français des Affaires étrangères et de la Défense.

Le souverain hachémite a notamment évoqué le problème de l'immigration des juifs soviétiques en Israël, mardi, au cours de son tête-à-tête avec M. Mitterrand, qui l'a longuement interrogé à ce sujet. Les deux chefs d'Etat ont également parlé de la dette jordanienne à l'égard de la France (estimée à plus de 129 millions de dollars pour 1989-1990), des conflits libanais et irano-irakiens, ainsi que de la nouvelle donne politique en Europe.

S'exprimant à l'issue de cette rencontre, le roi Hussein a rappelé qu'il était partisan de la convocation d'un sommet arabe, consacré aux défis lancés à la région. Il s'est également déclaré «satisfait» de son entretien avec le président français, qu'il a qualifié d'«homme de principes». Les deux hommes sont convenus par ailleurs de maintenir des «échanges de vues» une à deux fois par an.

Le roi a quitté Paris mercredi pour Londres, où il effectuera officiellement une visite semi-officielle, semi-privée. (D'après agences).

Journée internationale de la Femme

Manifestations en Palestine

Célébrée le 8 mars dans le monde entier, la journée internationale de la Femme se veut l'occasion pour plus de la moitié de l'humanité de rappeler les injustices et les inégalités dont elle reste victime dans de nombreux pays. Dans les territoires occupés, les Palestiniennes ont surtout dénoncé la répression militaire israélienne.

Plusieurs centaines de femmes palestiniennes ont manifesté avant-hier dans diverses localités des territoires occupés, à l'occasion de la journée internationale de la Femme. Aux revendications proprement féministes, la plupart d'entre elles ont préféré la formule des sit-in de protestation pacifique contre la répression militaire israélienne de l'Intifada. Ainsi à Béthléem, Ramallah, Hébron ou encore Jérusalem-Est, où les manifestantes ont occupé les locaux de la Croix-Rouge.

A l'issue de leurs rassemblements, elles ont manifesté en cortège, brandissant des drapeaux palestiniens. Cortèges que la police israélienne a dispersés à coup de grenades lacrymogènes dans la partie orientale de la Ville Sainte.

La veille, d'autres manifestations avaient été signalées dans la Bande de Gaza ainsi qu'à Beit Sahour et Naplouse, en Cisjordanie. Là encore, les slogans politiques avaient remplacé les mots d'ordre féministes.

Une nouvelle manifestation contre l'occupation militaire, comme cette fois aux femmes israéliennes et palestiniennes, est également prévue aujourd'hui. Leurs organisations ont l'intention de se retrouver symboliquement à la limite des deux secteurs de Jérusalem.

La police avait, dans un premier temps, interdit ce rassemblement, pour des «raisons de sécurité». Les autorités israéliennes sont finalement revenues sur leur décision à la suite d'une intervention de la Cour suprême, saisie par les principaux mouvements de femmes. (D'après agences).

Point de vue

En Jordanie, la Journée de la Femme n'a guère donné lieu à rassemblement, manifestation ou débat public. La Fondation Shoman a certes organisé plusieurs rencontres cette semaine sur ce thème, mais sans mobiliser les foules. Constat, qui vaut d'ailleurs pour l'ensemble du monde arabe, et qu'interroge ci-dessous Fayçal al-Zuraigat.

Pas d'équivalent de Simone de Beauvoir. Avant même la Journée Internationale de la Femme, l'Association des artistes jordaniens avait organisé un débat sur la place de la femme dans notre pays. D'autres institutions, comme la Fondation Shoman, ont proposé cette semaine des rencontres sur ce même thème. Ayant assisté à la plupart de ces manifestations et entendu les points de vue qui s'y sont exprimés, je voudrais mettre l'accent sur les points suivants:

1 - Je pense que les intellectuelles, qui prétendent vouloir défendre la femme dans le monde arabe, n'ont pas fait, jusqu'à maintenant, les analyses historiques et les études de fond qui s'imposent pour comprendre pourquoi, chez nous, les femmes ne jouissent pas de tous leurs droits. Nous ne comptons parmi nous aucun équivalent de l'écrivain français Simone de Beauvoir, par exemple.

Le mouvement féministe arabe et les travaux accomplis jusqu'à présent sont loin d'être satisfaisants. Bien au contraire: les militantes ont souvent perdu leur sang-froid, présentant les problèmes sous la forme d'une guerre contre l'homme. Trop souvent, les poncifs tiennent lieu de réflexions sérieuses. Et jamais, la question de la femme n'est traitée comme un point essentiel. On retrouve cette lacune dans les essais du Palestinien Hisham al-Shurabi et du Marocain Adid al-Jabri, consacrés à l'histoire de la pensée arabe.

Aucune femme arabe n'a signé de livre, qui prenne en considération l'histoire et la religion de façon franche. Les affrontements, puérils, entre quelques féministes et le courant religieux sont ridicules. Le vrai Islam n'a jamais combattu les droits de la femme. Fayçal al-Zuraigat.

A L'AFFICHE

Les blessés de l'Intifada

En marge de la conférence sur «Les implications médicales des pratiques israéliennes dans l'occupation de la Palestine», présentée ce soir au YWCA, à 19h00, par Dr. Nasri Khouri, voici quelques chiffres sur les blessés de l'Intifada...

Depuis plus de deux ans que dure le soulèvement dans les territoires arabes occupés, on sait désormais qu'en moyenne un Palestinien meurt chaque jour. Mais, sait-on que pour un tué, on compte cent blessés?

Le bilan des deux premières années d'Intifada, établi par différentes organisations humanitaires en décembre 1989, dénombreait 70.000 blessés d'une moyenne d'âge de 18 ans et demi. 50 pour cent ont été meurtris par des balles réelles ou en plastique et 50 pour cent par des coups. 3.000 d'entre eux sont handicapés à vie et environ 150 ont perdu totalement ou partiellement la vue.

Ces chiffres sont contestés par les autorités israéliennes qui ne reconnaissent que 15.000 blessés.

On peut expliquer l'écart par le fait que nombre de blessés évitent d'entrer à l'hôpital pour échapper aux recherches. Ainsi, un nombre non négligeable de jeunes Palestiniens gardent très longtemps des plaies infectées, au risque d'une aggravation de leur état, ou bien encore, cicatrisent dans la clandestinité et survivent avec une ou plusieurs balles dans le corps.

Une situation qui complique l'exercice de la médecine dans les territoires et qui pourrait, à terme, créer une génération de handicapés sans autonomie et sans infrastructure pour les accueillir.

F.M.

EXPOSITIONS

Peinture. La Fondation Shoman présente les œuvres de sept peintres irakiens: Shaker Hassan al-Sa'idi; Salim al-Dabagh; Rafi al-Nassiri; Sa'adi al Ka'bi; Ali Taleb; Mohammad Mahroudin et Ismail Fatah.

Centre culturel et scientifique de la Fondation Shoman (Shamsiyyat), jusqu'au 4 avril. L'exposition est ouverte tous les jours, sauf le vendredi, de 18h00 à 17h00.



L'une des quatre variations sur le thème «Notre monde aujourd'hui», présentée par Mohammad Mahroudin à la Fondation Shoman.

Peinture. Ahmad Nawash expose ses toiles au centre culturel français.

CCF, du 17 mars au 5 avril. Vernissage, samedi à 18h00.

Peinture. Le peintre jordanien Mahmoud Issa expose au centre culturel royal.

CCR, du 10 au 15 mars, de 18h00 à 20h00. Inauguration samedi à 18h00. Entrée libre.

CONFERENCES

«Les implications médicales des pratiques israéliennes en Palestine occupée». Conférence et débat animés par le docteur Nasri Khouri.

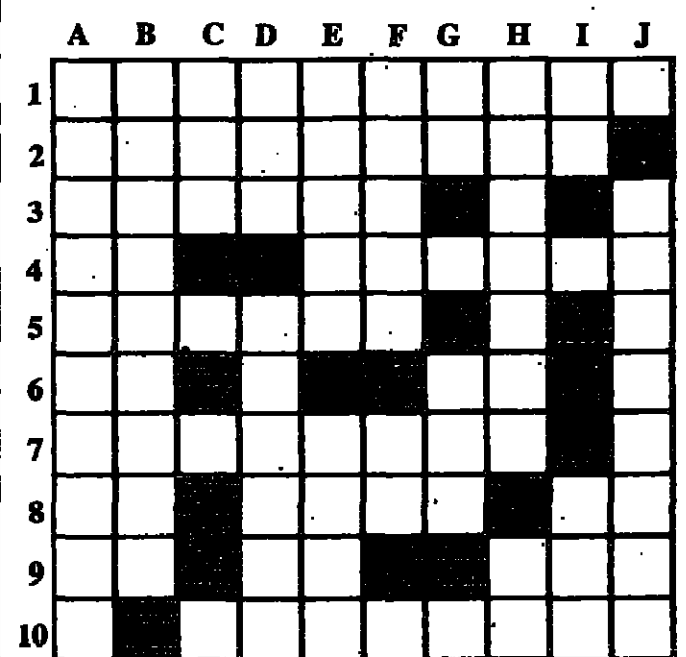
YWCA (Jebel Amman, près du 3e cercle), samedi 10 mars à 19h00. (voir FOCUS).

De Ganile, l'homme du 18 juin, par Philippe Bec, professeur au CCF. De l'appel à la résistance contre l'occupation nazie de la France à la libération, le rôle de l'homme dont l'histoire personnelle se confond pendant trois décennies avec celle de l'Hexagone.

Centre culturel français, mardi 13 mars à 18h00 (en français).

J E U X

Mots croisés



Horizontalement.

1: donnera une bonne odeur. 2: elles calment les maux de tête. 3: serait joyeux. 4: article; prop. res. 5: recherches. 6: note; négation. 7: règles. 8: en tenue d'Adam; tissu; fin de messe phonétique; 9: prénom personnel; début d'hypothèse; l'homme du Déluge. 10: mesure pour le poids.

Verticalement.

A: négocié. B: propre à l'Extrême-Orient. C: Rassemblement pour la République. D: fit confiance; élevé. E: on y trouve parfois des traces d'albume; monarques. F: elles trouvent les vêtements; participe passé. G: préposition; éclose. H: poètes; théâtre japonais. I: champion; particule. J: aide.

(Solution la semaine prochaine)

CINEMA

All about Eve, avec Bette Davis et George Sanders. Quand une grande actrice sur le déclin affronte la fin de sa carrière et la gloire montante d'une plus jeune comédienne.

Centre américain, dimanche 11 mars à 19h00 (en anglais).

Le Ciel est à vous, de Jean Grémillon, avec Charles Vanel et Madeleine Renaud. Comment un jeune couple parvient à forcer un destin sans écart et à rompre avec une vie médiocre.

Centre culturel français, lundi 12 mars à 20h00 (en français, sous-titré en arabe).

Stella, de Franz Josef Wild d'après la pièce de Goethe, avec Dietlind Turban, Judy Winter et Robert Atzorn (1982-vidéo). Les ailes tragiques d'une relation à trois.

Institut Goethe, mardi 13 mars à 20h00 (en allemand, sous-titré en anglais).

It's a wonderful life, de Frank Capra, avec James Stewart, Travers et Donna Reed (1946). Un homme, accablé de soucis, s'apprête à se suicider, estimant sa vie inutile. Un ange lui prouve le contraire en lui montrant ce que serait devenu sa ville s'il n'avait pas existé.

Centre américain, jeudi 15 mars à 19h00 (en anglais).

Ciné-club. Séances à 13h00, 15h00, 17h00, 18h30 et 20h00. Nouveau film, suivi d'un débat, le lundi à 20h00. Projection pour les jeunes, le jeudi à 15h00. Thème du mois: les nommés aux Oscars 1990, à travers leurs filmographies.

Samedi 10: Prends l'Oscille et tire-toi; Play it again, Sam; Bananas; Love and death; Annie Hall.

Dimanche 11: Manhattan; Stardust memories; A midsummer night's sex comedy; Zelig; Danny Rose.

Lundi 12: King Kong; The front; Casino Royal; Anna and her sisters; Dead poet's society (de Peter Weir, avec Robin Williams (1989). Un professeur de littérature, épic de culture, tente de révéler à chacun de ses étudiants sa richesse propre. Au mépris des dix autres de ses collègues).

Mardi 13: The postman always rings twice; All that jazz; Tootsie; Francis; Country.

Mercredi 14: Crimes of passion; Sweet dreams; Purple rose of Cairo; Prizzi's honour; The dead.

Jeudi 15: Good morning Vietnam; Ghostbusters; The world according to Garp; Camille Claudel (1ère partie); Camille Claudel (2ème partie). Le film est en français.

Vendredi 16: Lady Hawke; Les Liaisons dangereuses (USA); The witches of Eastwick; Into the night; Cocktail.

Films en version originale. Tél: 683901. Bases de l'université, pro-muère à droite après l'hôtel Jérusalem puis première à gauche. Le club-club se trouve à environ 300m sur la gauche.

SAMEDI

17:00 Champs Elysées: Emission de variétés présentée par Michel Drucker. Invités: Gérard Blanchard, Marcel Amont et Chantal Goya.

19:00 - Le journal.

19:15 - Sauvage et Beau: Documentaire sur les animaux sauvages.

DIMANCHE

18:00 - Tel Père, Tel Fils: Comédie. Avec Jacques Balutin.

18:20 - L'Ecole des fans: Emission de variétés pour les enfants, présentée par Jacques Martin. Invité de la semaine: Pierre Perret.

19:00 - Le journal.

19:15 - Aujourd'hui en France: magazine culturel. Cette semaine: Léo Malet, auteur de romans policiers.

LUNDI

18:00 - Arsène Lupin, 5ème épisode de la série policière.

19:00 - Le journal.

19:15 - Magazine sportif hebdomadaire.

MARDI

18:10 - Des Chiffres et des Lettres: Jeux.

18:30 - L'Appart: Comédie.

19:00 - Le journal.

19:15 - Aujourd'hui en Jordanie: Magazine local réalisé et présenté par Saleh Madi.

MERCREDI

18:00 - Aventures, Voyages: Documentaire.

19:00 - Le Journal.

19:15 - Variétés françaises.

JEUDI

18:10 - Tel Père, Tel Fils. Comédie. Avec Jacques Balutin.

18:30 - La Chance aux chansons: Emission de variétés présentée par Pascal Serran. Invité de la semaine: Charles Trénet.

19:00 - Le journal.

19:15 - Sciences à la Une: Documentaire.

VENREDI

17:00 - Des Chiffres et des Lettres: Jeux.

17:20 - Marie Antoinette: Téléfilm.

19:00 - Le journal.

19:15 - Variétés françaises.

SAMEDI

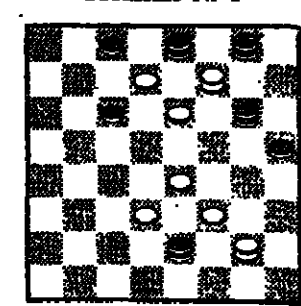
17:00 - Champs Elysées: Emission de variétés présentée par Michel Drucker.

19:00 - Le journal.

19:15 - Sauvage et Beau: Documentaire sur les animaux sauvages.

DAMES

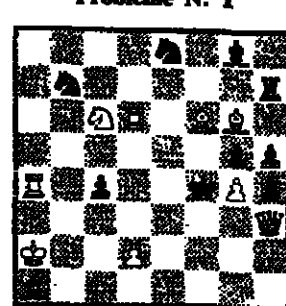
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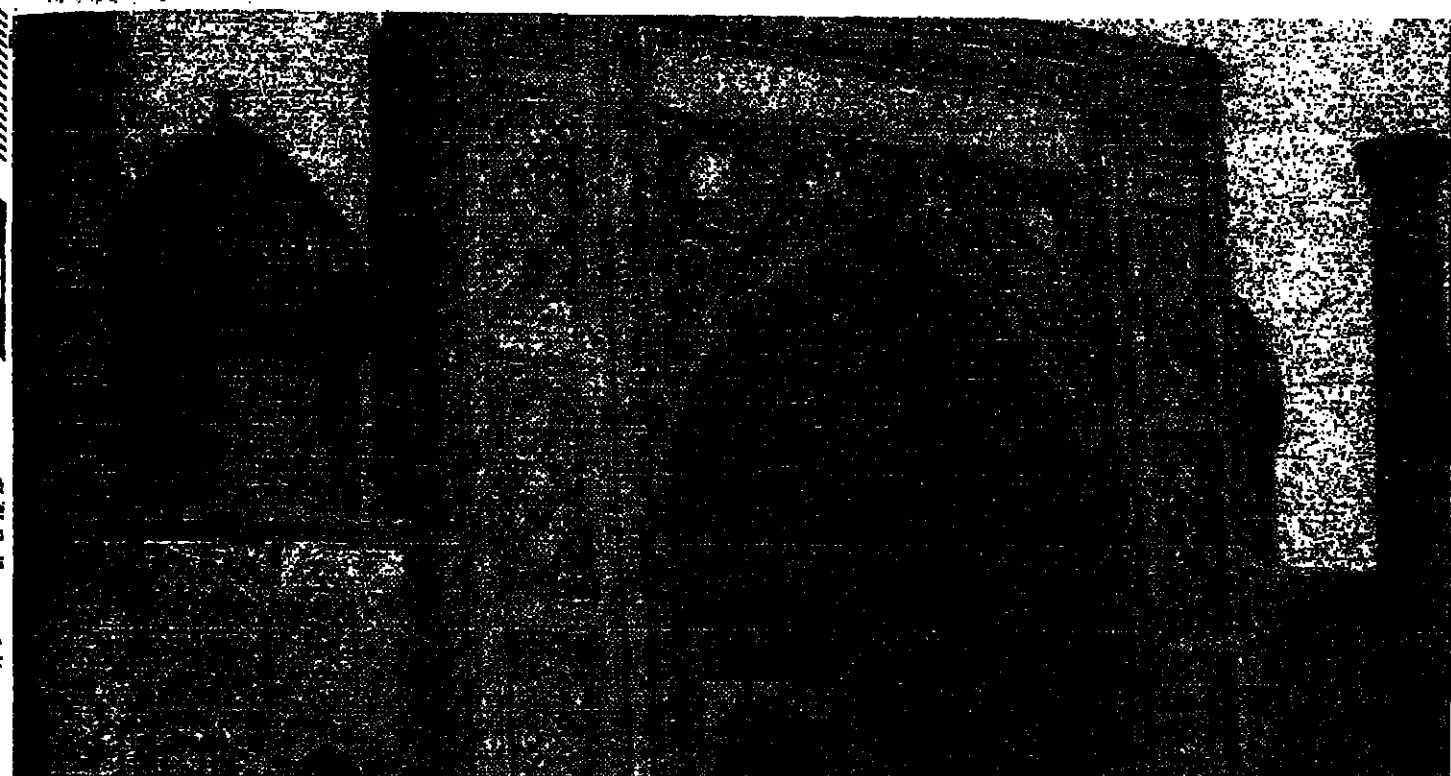
Les blancs gagnent en six coups.

ECHECS

Problème N. 1



Les blancs menacent mat en deux coups.



A reconstructed mosque in Registan Square, Samarkand, shows awareness of tradition in a city once a centre of Muslim culture now with a restored glory.

Muslims in Soviet Union emerge from obscurity

By John Lawton

THERE are more than 100 non-Russian nationalities living in the Soviet Union who, after a century of near-invisibility to casual Western observers, are making their presence felt in today's changing Soviet Union.

Of the Union's 15 republics, six — including its second biggest — are still, despite decades of religious repression, largely, actively and consciously Muslim.

In fact, the Soviet Union's 53 million Muslims compose almost one-fifth of the entire 280 million population of the USSR.

After ethnic Russians, they are its second-largest population group. And since their numbers are growing four times as fast as the Soviet population as a whole, Soviet Muslims are projected to outnumber Russians in 30 years.

They are mainly of Turkish origin. Along with Persian-speaking Tajiks, they occupy the vast crescent of land stretching from Europe to China along the southern rim of the USSR.

These people are descendants of the fierce nomadic tribes of Mongolia, the one-time rulers of Central Asia who founded the glittering medieval cities of Bukhara and Samarkand.

They were swallowed up by the southeastern expansion of Russia's czarist empire in the 19th century, and then fell under control of the Communists after the 1917 Revolution.

Now, however, as the century draws to a close, the people of the Soviet Union's Muslim republics — Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Tajikistan, Turkmenia and Uzbekistan — are seeking to regain control of their own destinies.

Although they have not been as strident as the Ukrainians, Estonians or Latvians in their

calls for autonomy, Muslims were among the first to test Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of democratisation. In 1986, Kazakhs demonstrated against the imposition of a Byelorussian as Communist Party boss of their republic — the USSR's second-largest.

Since then, more than 100 protests have been recorded in Soviet Turkistan, as the Muslim republics are collectively known. Recent visitors report the growing isolation of local Communist parties and the emergence of an alternative and definitely Muslim leadership.

As The Times of London reported, "It is among the younger generation, especially students and intellectuals, that Islam is recruiting its most ardent advocates."

Many Muslims, including some former Communists, are returning to "the sure values of their ancestral culture," says Tajik poet Mir-Goliev, because of the present uncertainties in the Soviet Union.

"If the Russians themselves do not know what they are going to do next," he says, "why should we ask them for solutions to our problems?"

Muslim leaders say that under Communist rule there have been vast improvements in health and education, but their lives have been restricted religiously, politically and economically.

Moscow, they say, shut down all but 400 of their 26,000 mosques and all but two of their religious colleges. Muslims were able to keep their religion alive by their own grass-roots efforts: through hundreds of Koranic schools and prayer centres and through the work and faith of thousands of itinerant, unofficial clerics.

And despite their numbers,

Muslims say, they have been allowed virtually no voice in government: since the Communists gained control of Muslim regions in the 1920s, only three members of the ruling Soviet body, the Politburo, have had Muslim backgrounds.

Also, although Central Asia, the Caucasus and the Volga River basin, where most Muslims live, together account for more than half of the USSR's agricultural production and a good part of its mineral wealth, Muslim-populated regions are among the poorest in the union.

The Russians, Muslims say, have utilised the resources of Soviet Turkistan almost as if the region were a colony.

Moscow's central planners, for example, designated Uzbekistan as the USSR's cotton-producing republic and pinpointed Kazakhstan to grow wheat, bring vast tracts of "virgin lands" under cultivation.

But it was done at a price: diversion of rivers to irrigate these new lands has resulted in the virtual desiccation of the Aral Sea. Once the fourth-largest lake in the world, the Aral has fallen 13.5 metres and shrunk to half its original area: it is surrounded by a grim desert of salt and sand.

The slow death of the Aral Sea has cut across the borders of the republics and become a vehicle for nationalist expression: Turkic writers are using it as a blind from which to snipe at more sensitive issues such as social problems and political control by Moscow.

Although it has been possible to learn more about Muslims in the USSR since Gorbachev ushered in his policies of perestroika and glasnost, no foreign embassy or consular personnel live or work in the USSR's Muslim regions, and no foreign jour-

nalists are based there.

But according to Edward Allworth, of the Central Asian Centre at New York's Columbia University, Western and Middle Eastern nations disregard the "rumble of change in contemporary Turkistan only at great, long-term risk."

For "very soon," he warns, "developments in Turkistan will increasingly affect nearby regions."

All the major Muslim nationalities in the USSR have relatives in neighbouring countries with whom they share close ethnic and religious ties.

Two million Tajiks and more than one million Uzbeks live in Afghanistan. Four hundred thousands Turkmen live in Iran, and Kazakhstan and Kirghizia share a frontier with China, with its own large Muslim population.

Certainly the binding force of Islam extends across the Soviet south and beyond, yet the forces for change within Soviet Turkistan so far "have carefully avoided making their appeal religious." The New York Times noted recently, because of fears that Moscow might cite religious extremism as a reason to suppress them.

In fact, the newspaper adds, radicals form only a small and isolated minority among Soviet Muslims.

And Amir Taheri, author of the recently published *Crescent in a Red Sky*, says that while "some believe that the way is now open for Muslim regions to regain control of their own destiny, few dream of independence, which would mean the breakup of the USSR."

As an unsigned article in the magazine *Turkistan* explained recently, the Muslims of the USSR "demand a solution, not a revolution" — *Aramco World*.

Euro-business — the young wolves. Ambitious and competitive, they consider the world a jungle.

Euro-rockies — leave school at 18. Ego-centred, they want to have money and spend it, but don't want responsibility.

Euro-squadra — hedonists, they are keen on bodily pleasure, leisure and sport. Higher proportion in southern countries.

Euro-romantics — the dreamers and cocooners whose life revolves around the family. Many found in Germany.

Euro-olvidados — they are among the poorest EC citizens, concerned with material things and suspicious of change.

Euro-vigilantes — conformists, they are frustrated at their lack of spending power and sceptical about unfamiliar things.

Euro-prudent — among the most resistant to change, they take a cautious, practical view of life.

Euro-strict — highly educated and moralistic, with a strong repressive trait. Hard-working and mindful of their position.

Euro-geentry — the golfers. Self-styled aristocrats. Traditionalists but less fanatical than the Euro-strict.

Euro-citizens — community leaders and organisers. They are sensible and public-spirited.

Euro-scout — an older group. Of average income, they are humanists with religious values.

Euro-pioneers — the shakers and movers. Environmentally aware, well-educated and affluent. Into travel and culture.

Euro-protest — the hippies. Less well off, into innovative values, anti-establishment. Want to change the world.

Euro-defence — right-wing and xenophobic.

Euro-moralists — conservative. Their moral values are important to them.

Are you prepared for Euromarket?

By Matthew Pearce
Reuter

BRUSSELS — Businessmen take note. If you want to keep customers once Europe's trade barriers come down, you must learn to tell a Euro-dandy from a Euro-vigilante.

That is the message from a panel of European marketing agencies which says it has pigeon-holed all 320 million European Community citizens into 16 consumer profiles or "Eurostyles."

"If you are wise, you are prepared for the European market," said Dominique Rajewski, of Brussels-based GKF Belgium, one of 15 marketing firms on the panel.

"Whether they like it or not, everyone in market research now has to conduct multinational surveys, because the market is being thrown open," she said.

The EC's plans to dismantle all internal restrictions on trade by 1992 pose a big problem for many businesses — how to extend success in their home markets beyond national borders.

The panel's answer is to pick out the social strands which weave a common EC fabric, from the wealthy conservatism of the Euro-geentry "the golfers" — to the frustration of the impoverished Euro-olvidados, the forgotten people of Europe.

Armed with this knowledge, it says, the intrepid marketer can tune into the spirit of the times and confidently aim his wares at potential customers from Manchester to Milan.

"The system combines segmentation and internationalisation, and that makes it unique," Rajewski said. "You can work on an international level but still target a market with precision."

There have been pan-European surveys before, but these stuck largely to demographic and economic data. The Eurostyles

stand apart, they developers say, because they classify consumers in terms of life-style, motivation and ways of thinking.

"We study the consumer in all his aspects — his attitudes, his whims, his habits," Rajewski said. "The system is very much related to what one does in daily life."

The Eurostyles are the brain-child of Bernard Cathelat, a professor of political sciences at the Sorbonne University in Paris.

They are based on interviews conducted in 11 EC countries plus Austria, Switzerland, Norway and Sweden.

The panel asked a sample of 24,000 people some 3,500 questions apiece on topics ranging from "my philosophy" and "my political programme" to "my work" and "my money."

They then sifted through this board of crude information in search of the overlaps and correlations which would ultimately crystallise into a recognisable set of attitudes, feelings and habits — an Eurostyle.

In the final marketing product the 16 Eurostyles are mapped onto a graph which sorts them according to their openness to change, how important property is to them, and whether they behave emotionally or rationally.

The Euro-strict, for example, are "decidedly moralistic with a strong repressive trait," the panel says in its sample pack. They view the Europe of 1992 as "a united

community in the struggle against Communism."

At the opposite end of the spectrum, the Euro-pioneers are open-minded, environmentally aware and keen to change the world.

"They are the Greens. They are into cultural life and innovative thinking," Rajewski said.

In between come such categories as the Euro-squadra, who "have a strong sense of bodily pleasure," and the Euro-rockies, who are "very ego-centred" and "want to make money."

The panel believes Eurostyles are an indispensable tool for industrial, media and government organisations alike. It says some 20 companies have already bought its services, including a Japanese firm thinking of setting up a subsidiary in Europe.

Clients can commission further studies within the Eurostyles framework, it says, and there are plans for local surveys to establish such subtleties as the difference between, say, Portuguese and Irish Euro-Moralists.

But are there no exceptions to the rule, no individuals who elude the Eurostyles' classifications? Rajewski was doubtful.

"Everyone can be put into a category," she said. "We have much more in common than we think."

Euro-dandy — the youngest group, they want above all to show off. Appearances count most for them.

A new window on the Arab World

A Katia Sebat

CAIRO — The concept of a "global village" touted by communications experts took new meaning recently for the many Arabs who live in Europe. Using the latest technology, a young entrepreneur who has risen to be the youngest film producer in Egypt took advantage of Cairo's recent cinema festival to announce the creation of an Arab TV channel scheduled to start broadcasting from London this spring.

Mehdar Al Cherif disclosed his new project before a crowd of celebrities from the entertainment world.

"The idea to set up an Arab channel was born from the longing that many Arabs living in adoptive countries feel for the type of media they enjoyed back home," explained Atef Ibrahim, chief executive for one of Al Cherif's many companies. "Although they often have the opportunity to watch Arab video movies, these exiles aren't satisfied with movie productions because they don't portray real everyday life back home; what they want is the real thing, information on current events within the social context they remember."

To start with the Arab channel is scheduled to broadcast from 7 a.m. to noon and offer a condensed version of a full 24-hour programming including the Koran, which will start the day, special shows for children, news bulletins, cultural happenings, dramas and sports coverage.

"We will receive our news everyday from the news agencies, and the channel will buy cultural programmes from a variety of Arab nations," Atef Ibrahim said. "But we hope to have drama series and plays produced just for our channel; these will take in account social trends and problems of particular interest to Arabs living abroad. Of course the slice of programming set aside for fiction works will also present the best productions from the Middle East and the Maghreb."

The public will be able to receive the channel — temporarily called "Arab Channel" — via cable or satellite. At first viewers

will pay nothing to tune in, which should enable the public to familiarise itself with the format, sponsors hope. Right now work is progressing at the London building where headquarters will be located. The equipment was provided by Tamido Film, another firm from the Al Cherif group.

At the helm will be a veteran of Egypt's radio, Dr. Mohammed Tewfik, assisted by media specialists such as art critic Waghieh Khairi, and of course Al Cherif himself, whose interest for anything to do with film or television production never wavers, Atef Ibrahim said.

While some question the choice of location for the station — Paris was mentioned as a more central location than London for a European channel — Atef Ibrahim pointed out that the distance between the two capitals is short. And language was an important factor, he added. A majority of the shareholders who financed the channel speak English and live in England.

A resident of Germany, Leila Al Baghoury expressed her enthusiasm for the project. "I admit that German television is very interesting, especially when it comes to news and documentaries; and we also get from France and Germany excellent cultural programmes. But all of us living abroad feel a certain nostalgia for broadcasts in the Arabic language which tell us about our country and our roots," she commented.

"And what's very important is that it will enable our children who grow up in a foreign culture to hear the language of their country spoken by people other than their parents."

Other comments came from a famous couple, actor Moshen Mohieddine and his wife, actress Nesrine: "The fact that the new channel will borrow films and television series from Egypt will stimulate us and encourage us to improve," he noted. "This channel opens up incredible vistas, it will more than double our audience."

"Foreigners will become acquainted with our production," Nesrine said. "I don't know how the TV people will manage the



Mehdar Al Cherif announces the creation of an Arab television channel to broadcast from London.

dubbing or the adding of subtitles, but for sure the channel will increase the size of our audience. It will be an incentive for the writers, actors and producers. In the long term the Arab Channel will have a great impact on quality."

For art critic and director Rafik Al Sabban, the creation of the channel is a needed parallel to what has happened in the written media with the publication of Arabic newspapers in many foreign countries. "There was an urgent need for a TV channel that would give an outlet to the great effort under way to popularise Arabic literature, and show the world films, plays and other artistic endeavours that a foreign pub-

lic would never see otherwise," he said. "Modern painting, for example, is very sophisticated in the Arabic World, and this colour channel is an open door to a much greater audience."

"My first thought is for the artistic impact of the Arab Channel because that's my field," Sabban admitted, "but I don't doubt that it will have a positive effect in many other domains."

Is the world ready for a global village, ready to share and accept different cultures? Mehdar Al Cherif and his team are betting that the miracles of modern technology are also changing man's perception of his environment as limited by borders and traditions — *World News Link*.

The population bomb about to explode

By Norman Myers

WE DON'T hear much about the population any more, except occasional noises that the issue is pretty much over on the grounds that fertility rates have been declining in most of the developing world. But the problem is as problematical as ever. True, there is better news on certain fronts. Overall, however, the population explosion is poised to enter its most dramatic phase.

The past 60 years have seen a far greater increase in human numbers, from two billion to five billion, than in human kind's entire history. But that is nothing compared with what is to come. During the next 40 years we may well see another five billion added.

Moreover, this is a medium projection. If more countries follow the regrettable example of the Philippines and most countries of sub-Saharan Africa by allowing their population growth rate to keep on rising, the ultimate total for humankind's numbers is projected to reach well over 14 billion people.

But if, by contrast, most countries follow the splendid examples of China, South Korea, Taiwan, Java, Thailand, Kerala State in India, Sri Lanka, Tunisia and Cuba, we shall end up with a projected total of little more than eight billion people. The difference of six billion people is way more than exist on Earth right now.

According to the World Hunger Project at the University of Rhode Island, if all humans were to confine themselves to a strictly vegetarian diet, Earth could, with present levels of agro-technology and equal distribution of food, support a maximum of six billion people.

If people were to derive 15 per cent of their calories from animal protein, as do many people in South America today, the total would slump to four billion; and if they gained 25 per cent from animal protein, as is the case with most people in North America, then the Earth could support only three billion.

But as Professor Paul Ehrlich of Stanford University points out, between 1985 and 1988 world population increased by 5 per cent, while per-capita food output declined by 5 per cent.

What do we need to do if we are to slow population growth much faster than to date?

First we should supply family-planning services to all those couples who possess the motivation but lack the "contraceptive hardware." The proportion of women with such unmet needs ranges in different countries from an estimated 11 per cent to 42 per cent.

Suppose we accept a rough approximate average of 25 per cent of the 450 million women "at risk" in the Third World, or 113 million in all.

Even this relatively small number would be enough to reduce the ultimate population by many hundreds of millions.

To supply contraceptive services to these women would cost an average of \$15 per head, or almost \$1.7 billion on top of present annual family-planning outlays (China excepted) of about \$1 billion.

Despite the size of the population problem, there has been some better news on several fronts. The achievements of China, Taiwan and a dozen other countries in bringing their fertility rates plunging in just a couple of decades have exceeded the best expectations of demographers.

Many of these countries are well on the way to reaching replacement fertility by the end of the century of shortly thereafter. Fortunately population policy makers have recently agreed, for the first time ever, on specific demographic targets to slow population growth more than has been achieved to date. According to the unprecedented agreement reached at the International Forum on Population in the 21st Century held in Amsterdam last November, the number of couples using contraceptives must be increased to 535 million if the global population is to reach only

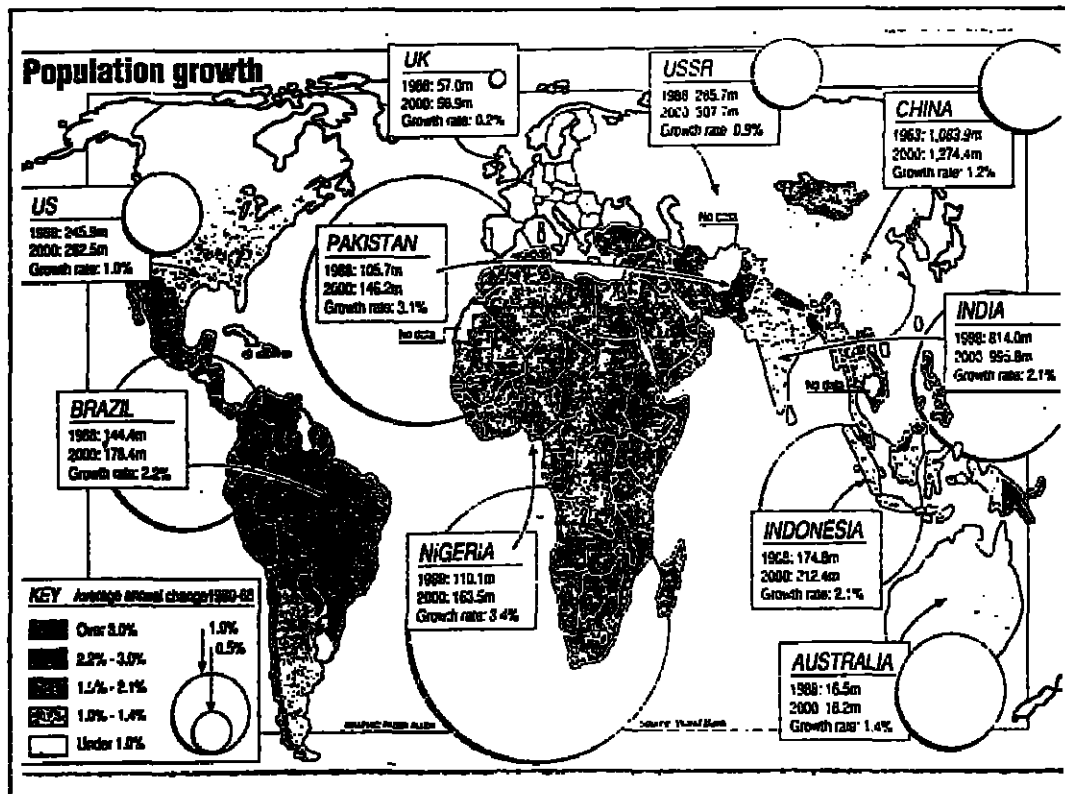
6.25 billion people by the year 2000.

But to achieve that target, population funding must be increased from \$3 billion per year now to \$9 billion. Large as this increase sounds, it is easily within our means. It is equivalent to only three days of military spending worldwide in 1989. Which outlay would give us the greater all-round and enduring security? Moreover in the wake of the Cold War's ending, Nato cutbacks could amount to \$100 million as early as next year. What better way to use a small part of the savings than by taking the many proven measures to defuse the population bomb?

In 1970 only half a dozen Third World governments accepted the need for planning of any sort, but today more than 70 governments are committed to the cause, albeit with often a mere fraction of the energy and urgency required in practice.

Curiously, while First World governments are all too ready to urge the virtues of population planning on Third Worlders, not a single First World government has established a population policy of its own. How many Britishers can be sustainably supported within a purely British context, let alone the broader context of Britain's impact on the planetary ecosystem?

Plainly we all need to look at our population situation with regard to Earth's carrying capacity. To point a critical finger at Third World "laggards" is akin to asserting "Your end of the boat is sinking." — *The Guardian*.



Gulf Arab central bankers urge capital market growth

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Government spending in Gulf Arab countries so dominates the economies that no incentive remains for individuals or groups to raise capital for private projects, the governor of Kuwait's central bank has said.

Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah, addressing a conference, said state-owned or controlled companies also reduced the amount of equity available for private sector investment.

Many of the state-run firms depended on state subsidies, again providing no incentive to raise funds through the capital market, he said.

Existing GCC markets tended to suffer from low liquidity, and little available information on quoted companies, he said.

Sheikh Salem said the experience of major world markets in the late 1980s had also proved the need for central banks to have the power available to control monetary policy.

"It is important that the central banks have the appropriate tools ... and have the mandate to use these tools," he said.

The governors urged their banks to play a more active role in managing the region's cash flow and for governments to set a firmer base to develop regional capital markets.

The bank leaders said the future economic health of the six states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Qatar, and Oman — depended on this. Projecting their vision, they said broad capital markets, backed by firm legislation to protect investors, and clear regulatory frameworks, would free the GCC states from over-reliance on oil.

It would also allow the private sector its rightful economic importance. "The capital market in many of our GCC countries cannot yet be considered as developed. Existing gaps ... eventually will be filled," Saudi Arabia Monetary Agency chief Hamad Saud Al Sayari told the international gathering.

But he warned GCC financial institutions to help the governments in encouraging broader markets and savers.

"Though there has been phenomenal growth in bank deposits in the last two decades, it is difficult to claim that banks have played a very active role in mobilising savings," he said.

"Banks would do well not to lose sight of the correlation between savings and investment," he said.

In the GCC, the oil price col-

lapse of the mid-1980s forced governments to pump state money into the economy to avoid an even more severe recession, placing themselves deep in debt.

To prevent a repeat of this, GCC governments want to spread the burden for growth onto the private sector by providing more investment opportunities at home to stop some of the large outflow of petrodollars to Western capital markets.

They want to diversify from large-scale public spending and state-run firms, and from over-reliance on the few, huge holding companies run by the wealthiest regional families.

The governors said the idea was not to prevent GCC capital outflows, but to provide an alternative for domestic capital, and an attraction for foreign investors.

"I do not expect capital flows from the region to weaken. The prospects for the next few years point to two-way capital flows between the GCC and the world," said Bahrain Monetary Agency Deputy Governor Ibrahim Khalifa Al Khalifa.

Bahrain's minister of finance said that his country's offshore banking sector was poised for sustained growth after a period of retrenchment.

Abraham Abdul Karim, minister of finance and national economy, conceded a downside in the banking sector since the oil boom petered out.

But he said the preliminary indications for fiscal 1989 showed "the worst has already been left behind and the banking sector in Bahrain is now poised for take-off to a decade of sustained growth."

He told the conference that Bahrain had 56 offshore banking units at the end of 1988, commanding total assets of over \$68 billion. At its peak in 1985, it had more than 70 offshore banks.

He also noted that the GCC as well as other Arab countries were carefully monitoring the possible repercussions of a single Europe to be born in 1992 and the impact of the recent changes in Eastern Europe.

As part of its efforts to become the GCC financial centre, Bahrain has a fledgling stock exchange that it hopes will be a central one in the Gulf.

Justice Secretary (minister) Ezzeddin Al Henshri, in a resignation speech, complained that Libyan children were running round the streets selling cigarettes when children in Palestine were fighting the Israelis.

"Traders and their gimmicks have sprung up all over the place. Many people are not ashamed to practise brokerage and even encourage their children to do the same," he added.

Qadhafi portrayed private traders as parasites who sought to seduce innocent people into buying their goods by offering as wide a variety as possible.

"They say supply depends on demand, but supply should depend on need," he said.

Most delegates have demanded that the authorities enforce price controls, provide more cheap loans, save jobs in the public sector and subsidise exports, if necessary through barter arrangements.

The only aspect of liberation to gain widespread support has been in imports, to which as many groups as possible, such as individuals and the farmers unions, want to have access.

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Libyan parliament demands state role

TRIPOLI (R) — Libya's parliament has set the government a tough task — spend more on state-owned industries, keep subsidies on goods and food, save jobs, provide cheaper loans and give as many people as possible access to imports.

Despite pleas for realism from Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, a majority of delegates has opted in a big way for state intervention and only a marginal role for the private sector.

Most members of the parliament, known as the General People's Congress, also want a clampdown on the "grey market" in imported goods.

Private enterprise has been a dirty phrase during the congress. Delegates have heard Qadhafi attacking "brokering" — the pejorative expression for buying goods cheap and selling dear.

The usual sources of the goods are neighbouring Tunisia or government shops which not all people can reach.

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY MARCH 10, 1990

By Thomas S. Plerson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a perfect day to think out just what your particular emotional problem is and in just what manner it can be sensibly handled in a well rounded fashion by you.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Help your family to attend to whatever family obligations exist. You will now know just the right things to say and do with your attachment.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You are happy because a friend who was going away is remaining here. Much constructive conversation can now take place with your mate.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your home can be spruced up and made more comfortable now. A visit with your attachment can bring a great deal of pleasure.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Much very good advice will now be given you in conducting your duties. Entertain a prominent woman friend in your home for success.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your day to go Dutch treat in recreation with your friends. Be prepared for surprise events and unexpected happenings with your mate.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Welcome those from a distance into your home with open arms. Don't go running off and leaving your attachment alone today.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Rely upon your best judgement and not on your intuition in your duties. Get off on a trip with your attachment and have a wonderful time.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Younger friends can bring you a considerable amount of pleasure. A new look at your home can bring much more happiness to you and mate.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A trip with some friends is just what will help you the most now. Determining to do what pleases your mate is advisable for you.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A rift can be caused by a determination to have your own way at home. Put more emotional fervour into your romantic life.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Invite as many outside associates as possible into your home for a happy time. You can now discuss intimate matters with your romantic attachment.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A good time to discuss with family ways to improve your home. This is the right time to go off on a visit with your attachment.

GCC chief criticises EC industrial stance

BAHRAIN (R) — A senior Gulf Arab official has accused European industrialists of blocking a free trade pact between the European Community (EC) and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), saying the accord was vital to GCC economies.

GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Bishara told a banking conference a meeting between industrialists from both sides in Spain last month had shown the EC was unlikely to lift painful protective barriers against Gulf petrochemicals.

"We found at the meeting in Spain that the European business climate for cooperation with the GCC was negative — Europe feels the free flow of our petrochemicals to Europe is a threat but we don't buy that, we cannot stomach it any more," he said.

"To us it is imperative and essential — to them it is threatening and secondary," he said.

GCC members Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are spending billions of dollars on new petrochemical and aluminium projects among industrial schemes aimed at diversifying their economies, which are heavily dependent on crude oil sales.

They have been urging the EC, their main trading partner, to lift tariffs on these key GCC exports to help narrow a trade deficit which reached \$4.4 billion in 1988.

Bishara said GCC foreign ministers would state their views "clearly and forcibly" at their first meeting with EC counterparts in Muscat on March 17.

EC foreign ministers last December agreed a mandate for a free trade pact that includes a lengthy transition period before scrapping duties and quotas.

GCC officials say the mandate, the basis for trade negotiations, does not go far enough.

"A major component of our development in the 1990s is to structure and develop our trade relations with Europe — this means we must have a trade agreement to ensure the flow of our petrochemicals," Bishara said.

He said the Europeans had told Gulf industrialists the flow of petrochemicals was a strategic issue which should not be left to vagaries of the market or the whims of Gulf exporters.

They also believed the GCC petrochemical industry was heavily subsidised, which was a misconception, he said.

"I have very little optimism that a fair and equitable agreement can be reached — we did not see eye to eye," he said.

Bishara said GCC states should reach out to European consumer lobbies who would benefit from cheaper petrochemicals and whose voice was being suppressed by the EC industrialists.

"The European industrialist lobby has too much power and has more influence over politicians than I thought," he said.

"The industrialists do not see the strategic importance of an accord between the GCC and the EC — they are totally devoid of compassionate consideration of our position," he said.

Bishara said the EC businessmen had suggested the GCC should concentrate more on markets in the United States and Japan, whose firms were more involved in joint venture GCC projects.

"We told them that when we asked for their participation they turned their backs on us and even now they are welcome to join hands with us — on that note we parted," Bishara said.

KUWAIT (Agencies) — The president of Poland's year-old Foreign Investment Agency has offered Kuwaiti stakes in crude oil refining, textile and shipping industries as well as investment opportunities in health spas.

"We have no other choice... we are anticipating several big bankruptcies in Poland," Zbigniew Piotrowski told Reuters after meeting Kuwaiti businessmen.

He said his country was facing "a strong depression making existing industries very attractive at relatively cheap prices."

He offered local businessmen a project for medical tourism. "We have lakes and countryside. They can invest in medical treatment centres and attract Kuwaitis and their families to them."

Polish Foreign Trade Minister Marcin Swiecicki also visited Kuwait last week to promote exports and offer investment opportunities.

Kuwait, which has an extensive downstream oil network in Western Europe, has so far shown interest in acquiring shares in two Polish refineries in Gdansk and Plock which have a total annual output of 15 million tonnes.

The negotiations with Kuwait over the refineries are still at an early stage. We are not placing any upper limits (on shares) at the moment for any kind of investment. We are open," Piotrowski said.

Kuwait refines some 760,000 barrel per day (bpd) of its current crude output of 1.9 million bpd at

domestic refineries and owns refineries in Denmark and the Netherlands in addition to more than 5,000 European petrol stations.

Piotrowski said a group of American financiers visited him in Warsaw to discuss raising capital to upgrade the two refineries. The 300,000-bpd plant at Plock is by far the largest domestic refinery and accounts for some 80 per cent of Poland's output.

Piotrowski said his country was in need of new technology and capital to make profitable existing industries which were subsidised under the country's former communist government.

He also anticipated unemployment problems in the textile industry and said "no very big capital is needed in that field to become a partner."

Pumping fresh cash into Poland's shipyards was another prospect Piotrowski discussed with the group.

He said Poland had extended invitations to several oil-rich Gulf Arab states to go to Warsaw to examine investment opportunities and help his country "restructure the economy and establish an access to export markets."

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Ali Khalifa Al-Sabah flies to Hungary Monday in what diplomats described as a serious Kuwaiti drive to gain an early foothold in the oil industry in Eastern Europe following the recent upheavals there.

It began an IMF-sponsored readjustment programme in the mid-1980s which initially brought high growth and low inflation. A small current account surplus was recorded in both 1987 and 1988 after 13 years in the red.

But critics said the country remained over-dependent on factors outside its control, such as energy prices, dollar fluctuations, tourism and remittances from migrant workers.

Berrada predicted that the trade deficit would improve this year, with the resumption since November of sales to India of phosphoric acid, interrupted by a pricing dispute.

This would mean the traditional IMF medicine of cuts in subsidies and price rises and a possible further slimming down of the bloated public sector, economic analysts say.

Morocco — ranked 11th on the World Bank's list of the 17 most heavily-indebted Third World countries — has debts of between

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THE Daily Crossword by Betty Jorgensen

ACROSS

- "Song — Blue"
- 5 Sky pilot
- 10 "We forgot"
- 14 Jacob's twin
- 15 Bounding main
- 16 Numerical prefix
- 17 Pro foe
- 18 Uther was his father
- 20 In want
- 22 Sheer jackets
- 23 Pilots
- 25 Neap or ebb
- 27 Waits table
- 28 Car. Mrs.
- 29 Hagard novel
- 32 Indian
- 33 Lower of 4D: var.
- 35 Prevaricators
- 37 Lubricant
- 38 Use effort
- 39 Describing "The Idylls of the King"
- 41 Instance
- 42 Comp. pl.
- 43 Charged atoms
- 44 Fade
- 46 Copies
- 47 Duped
- 48 Duplicate
- 51 Metrical foot
- 52 Knights' place
- 55 Ivory color
- 58 Cathedral part
- 60 Pindar e.g.
- 61 USSR river
- 62 Wagers
- 63 Pretenses
- 64 Agents for short

DOWN

- 1 Red or Black
- 2 Middy letters?
- 3 A Cole
- 4 Queen of Camelot
- 5 Fireplace
- 6 Implements
- 7 Gainsay
- 8 Tease
- 9 Alfonso's
- 10 Lanya or Lehman?
- 11 Resound
- 12 Shock deeply
- 13 Sails
- 19 Loss weight
- 21 Shoes width
- 23 Sequential games
- 24 War survival system
- 25 Induced
- 26 Fleming
- 27 Markets
- 28 Bazaars
- 29 Shoddy stuff
- 30 — around (played idly)
- 31 Cigar ends
- 32 Bank outlays
- 34 Magic sword
- 36 Shot from ambush
- 40 John or Jane
- 41 Sky streakers
- 42 Stial from
- 43 Henry VIII had 51
- 44 Nile's sacred
- 45 Peak
- 46 Fuss
- 47 Raw metal
- 48 Forty winds
- 49 Easy gait
- 50 High railways

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. Song — Blue
2. Sky pilot
3. "We forgot"
4. Jacob's twin
5. Bounding main
6. Numerical prefix
7. Pro foe
8. Uther was his father
9. In want
10. Sheer jackets
11. Pilots
12. Neap or ebb
13. Waits table
14. Car. Mrs.
15. Hagard novel
16. Indian
17. Lower of 4D: var.
18. Prevaricators
19. Lubricant
20. Use effort
21. Describing "The Idylls of the King"
22. Instance
23. Comp. pl.
24. Charged atoms
25. Fade
26. Copies
27. Duped
28. Duplicate
29. Metrical foot
30. Knights' place
31. Ivory color
32. Cathedral part
33. Pind

Virginia Slims of Florida:

Seles, Mandlikova, Shriver upset in the third round

BOCA RATON, Florida (AP) — Second seed Monica Seles, number six Hana Mandlikova and number seven Pam Shriver were upset Thursday in the third round of the Virginia Slims of Florida, but rookie Jennifer Capriati beat number eight Nathalie Tauziat in her third professional match.

Seles, of Yugoslavia was upset by 10th-seeded Laura Gildemeister 6-1, 7-5. Mandlikova was ousted by Amanda Coetzer of South Africa 2-6, 6-2, 6-3, and Shriver lost to fellow American Dinky van Rensburg, 7-5, 6-1.

Shriver became so angry at her performance that she kicked a chair and fractured her toe.

Capriati, 13, rallied from a slow start to beat Tauziat, ranked 16th in the world, 6-4, 6-2. The eighth-grader plays 10th-ranked Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia in the quarterfinals.

Three other seeded players managed to get through to the final eight.

Third seed Mary Joe Fernandez eliminated 12th-seeded Judith Wiesner of Austria 6-4, 6-1. Sukova, the fourth seed, battled back to defeat Halle Ciolek 4-6, 6-4, 6-1, and fifth-seeded

Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia routed Angelica Gavaldon 6-1, 6-0.

After losing the first set 7-5, Shriver kicked a chair and fractured her right big toe. After the match, she had her foot examined and learned she will be out 3-6 weeks.

"I knew right away something was hurt," Shriver said. "I needed to get out a little frustration but I picked the wrong mode to do it."

Seles, ranked sixth in the world, offered no excuses for the straight-set loss to Gildemeister, who out-hit the usually hard-hitting Seles.

"I knew she hits the ball very hard, but I didn't expect that she would get that many balls in," Seles said. "She was just better today."

In doubles play, Brenda Schultz and Andrea Temesvari defeated Capriati and Billie Jean King, 6-3, 6-2. Novotna and Sukova beat Penny Barg and Peanut Louie-Harper, 6-2, 6-4. Shriver and Mandlikova forfeited their match to Rene Simpson and Adriana Villagran-Reami.

Becker narrowly averts defeat

INDIAN WELLS (R) — Boris Becker came within two points of defeat Thursday before recovering to claim a place in the quarterfinals of the million-dollar Champions Cup tennis tournament.

Becker needed six match points to fend off aggressive Austrian Horst Skoff, the 16th seed, 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 in a match that lasted two hours 44 minutes.

Skoff led 5-4 in the third-set tiebreaker with two of his own serves to come but could not claim victory as the top-seeded West German finally prevailed by 11-9.

One seed to fall was third-seeded American Brad Gilbert, who lost to Emilio Sanchez of Spain. The 14th-seeded Sanchez played steadily on the slow hard courts and countered Gilbert's net attack with his passing shots, winning the match 6-3, 6-3.

Stefan Edberg, the second-seeded Sweden, needed just 58 minutes to beat unseeded Spaniard Sergi Bruguera 6-0, 6-3. Bruguera, more accustomed to clay courts, was no match for the serve and volley talents of Edberg.

Becker served strongly in his first set with Skoff, scoring the crucial break in the seventh game and serving out the set 6-4, with an ace.

Becker looked sluggish in the second set, allowing Skoff a 3-0 lead and missing easy forehands and volleys. A double fault from Becker contributed to Skoff's 5-1



Boris Becker

lead and the Austrian served out the set 6-1, with an ace of his own.

The third set was a battle waged mainly from the baseline, Skoff's position of preference, and a tactic which almost cost Becker the match. Becker reached match point for the first time at 5-4, but squandered it with a netted backhand return.

When games reached 6-6 and the tiebreak, it was Skoff who

took the early lead, going ahead 3-1. Becker broke back for 3-3, but Skoff broke for a 5-4 lead with a brilliant backhand pass down the line, giving him a chance to serve out the match. Instead, it was Becker who seized back the lead, reaching his second match point at 6-5 which he lost on a forehand pass by Skoff. Three more match points went by, the West German wasting all of them with errors from a tentative forehand.

Jordan participates in boat race

AQABA (Petra) — Jordan will take part in an international racing boats championship to be held in Kuwait on March 15, according to President of the Royal Jordanian Federation for Marine Sports Simone Khouri.

In a meeting chaired by Minister of Youth Ibrahim Al Ghababsheh Friday, Khouri briefed the minister on the activities of the federation locally and internationally. According to Khouri, the federation has held 23 skiing championships, three diving championships and two boat races.

Khouri expressed the federation's willingness to hold training courses for Jordanian divers in order to bring into existence a specialized team of Jordanian trainers in this sport.

Ghababsheh also held a meeting with Aqaba Region Authority President Bassam Qaqish who expressed willingness to support the youth movement in the region. It was agreed in the meeting that the sports complex in the port city of Aqaba be supervised by the ministry of youth instead of the Aqaba Region Authority as of the beginning of next year.

Oldham seeks cup double

LONDON (R) — Oldham hope it will be third time lucky on Saturday when they play Everton for a place in the quarterfinals of the English Football Association (F.A.) Cup.

The second division club, who reached the league cup final 6-3 on aggregate after losing 3-0 to West Ham in the second semi-final leg Wednesday, are at home to last year's losing F.A. Cup finalists in their fifth round second replay.

The winners will be at home to Aston Villa, who have a chance to overtake league-leaders Liverpool when they are at home to struggling Luton in the first division Saturday.

Liverpool are at Queen's Park Rangers for an F.A. Cup quarter-final Sunday.

Oldham captain Mike Milligan is convinced the midweek reverse was just what was needed to concentrate the minds of his teammates as they make their treble assault on the two cups and promotion to the first division they left in 1923.

With their league cup run, the modest Manchester club are through to the first major cup final of their 90-year history, but second leg reverse at West Ham was a sobering experience.

"I didn't enjoy that experience. What happened might have done us a big favour," midfielder Milligan said. "All these games lately have left us in a whirl. It's definitely affected some players."

"We needed shaking up. If you say we were complacent against West Ham, I might not be able to argue, but we are determined now to make that result work in our favour."

When they face Everton Saturday they will be defending a 33-match unbeaten home record on their artificial pitch at Boundary Park.

But they could again be without 25-goal top scorer Andy Ritchie, who has been told by manager Joe Royle to take as long as necessary to shrug off a nagging groin injury.

Everton are without Northern Ireland midfielder Norman Whiteside, who is serving a one-match suspension after he was sent off in the first 1-1 replay at Goodison Park.

In Saturday's only other F.A. Cup tie, Cambridge United hope to become the first fourth division team to reach the semifinals when they play at home to first division Crystal Palace.

Palace could be without their lethal striking duo Mark Bright and Ian Wright. Bright, the club's 15-goal top scorer, is suspended while his 11-goal partner Wright has a blister on his foot.

Manchester United travel to second-division title-candidates Sheffield United for their quarter-final Sunday.

Cup-holders Liverpool were beaten by Queen's Park Rangers 3-2 in the league earlier in the season and utility player Steve Nicol said his teammates were anxious to settle old scores.

Association president to be fined

SALZBURG, Austria (R) — Australian Chris Dittmar is to be fined and disciplined by the International Squash Players' Association (ISPA), of which he is president, for withdrawing from next week's Finnish Open to play exhibition matches.

The exhibition series is against world number one Jahangir Khan in the Middle East, and Dittmar explained Thursday why he de-

cided to play there instead of in Finland.

World number three Dittmar, in Salzburg to defend his Austrian Open title, said: "I signed up for the Middle East deal several months ago, believing that it was taking place the week after the Finland tournament and was only my error when Jahangir telephoned me after seeing my name on the Finnish draw."

Agassi's Davis Cup anger swells

INDIAN WELLS (R) — Andre Agassi reacted angrily Thursday to criticism he received from U.S. Davis Cup captain Tom Gorman after the teenaged American withdrew from the tie against Czechoslovakia in Prague later this month.

Agassi said he was outraged at Gorman's questioning of his commitment to Davis Cup play after he had withdrawn, citing scheduling conflicts.

"If he doesn't drastically change how he's handling the team, it would only be harmful to keep him in this position," Agassi said.

Gorman said Wednesday that he was "terribly disappointed" by Agassi's decision. "It's become more of a concern for me, questioning his commitment to the unique aspects of Davis Cup," Gorman said.

Aaron Krickstein, ranked sixth, has agreed to replace world number eight Agassi. Agassi had been named to the team Monday along with Brad Gilbert and the doubles team of Rick Leach and Jim Pugh. Jay Berger had substituted for Agassi in the previous round against Mexico.

Agassi admitted Thursday that personal differences with Gorman had influenced his decision to withdraw.

"For him to question my commitment to the Davis Cup team, that tells me a lot about the guy," said Agassi, who has competed in five previous Davis Cup campaigns.

"I'm tired of trying to be diplomatic about it," he added. "He's a follower in a leader's position and that makes it real difficult to get enthusiastic about it."

Agassi complained that his friends and long-time coach, Nick Bollettieri, were not allowed to be around him during practice and socially for the week of the Davis Cup tie.

"I can't play when it's not enjoyable," Agassi said. "He wants us all to be robots. He doesn't have the guts to tell people where it's at."

Gorman tried to defuse the situation after being told of Agassi's remarks Thursday.

"I wish he'd spoke to me so we could talk it out, two guys alone. Andre has been a good member of the team and he'll be a member in the future," he said.

Karpov, Timman play to draw

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Jan. Timman of the Netherlands held former world champion Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union to a draw in the second game of the world candidates chess final played on Friday.

Karpov, playing the white pieces, had a slight edge right from the opening and maintained it throughout the game which lasted four hours.

With cautious play, Timman was able to frustrate Karpov's attempts to obtain more from the position. The Dutch grandmaster appeared more relaxed despite having lost the first game.

Karpov opened the second game by pushing his queen pawn two steps forward and Timman

responded with a knight move, leading to the gruelling defence popularised by world champion Garry Kasparov.

Timman played the first 20 moves confidently, but after the series of exchanges that followed, experts at the press centre felt the position was better for Karpov and that Timman would need to work hard for a draw.

Timman showed that he was equal to the task. After making his 42nd move, Karpov decided to offer a draw which was immediately accepted by Timman. The position was equal with the players having four pawns and a king each.

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠A942 ♣76 ♦Q3 ♣Q10642

The bidding has proceeded:

West North East South

1 ♣ 1 ♠ 2 ♣ 2 ♣

What do you bid now?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠5 ♣A1863 ♦A1053 ♠AKQ

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

1 ♣ 1 ♠ 2 ♣ 2 ♣

2 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass

3 ♣ Pass 3 NT DBL

What action do you take?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠A10 ♣QJ ♦KQ1086 ♠AQ54

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

1 ♣ 1 ♠ 2 ♣ 2 ♣

1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass

What do you bid now?

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠AKJ964 ♣AQ9 ♦AK63 ♠Void

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

3 ♣ Pass 3 ♣ Pass

What do you bid now?

Q.5—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠K85 ♣84 ♦J3 ♠AQ854

The bidding has proceeded:

West North East South

1 ♣ 1 ♠ 2 ♣ 2 ♣

1 ♣ DM 3 ♣ ?

What do you bid now?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠A54 ♣KJ ♦AJ9843 ♠A10

What is your opening bid?

Look for answers on Monday.

FRIENDS OF ARCHAEOLOGY

We regret to announce that the lecture to be given by Dr. Alistair Northedge on his survey and excavations at Samarra, Iraq, scheduled for Sunday, March 11, has been postponed till Thursday, March 15, at 8.00 p.m. at ACOR.

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- Message Minder: 2 line tel. answering system with Vox and remote, brand new. Price: JD 130.

Please call tel: 653410, Amman

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JOB OPPORTUNITY - Retail Consultant

A leading Jordanian foundation seeks a part-time consultant to train gift shop personnel in merchandising, sales techniques, inventory management, financial controls, advertising, and other areas related to professional retailing. Candidates must have a minimum of 5 years experience in retail management within the gift business and ability to train.

Interested candidates should send detailed background information to P.O. Box 950805, Amman before March 15.



Amra Forum Hotel, a division of InterContinental Hotels Corporation is in need of the following candidates due to their forthcoming opening of a new outlet "Vienna Cafe"

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Lithuanian parliament plans to declare independence Sunday

MOSCOW (AP) — Lithuanian nationalists said Friday that plans for a parliamentary declaration of independence were still on and that a vote would be taken Sunday, contradicting an earlier report that it had been postponed.

Lionginas Vasilyauskas, spokesman for the Sajudis People's Movement, said the republic's Supreme Soviet legislature would vote on a declaration of independence Sunday, instead of Saturday as originally planned.

Sajudis members hold a two-thirds majority in the newly elected legislature.

He disputed a report by Eduards Potashnikas, an editor at Lithuanian state-run television, who said the group's governing council had decided Thursday night to postpone the vote.

Potashnikas, who has been accurate in past accounts of developments in Lithuania, said nationalists dropped plans to vote this weekend on seceding from the Soviet Union. He said that, instead, they planned to vote on independence "in the nearest future."

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, trying to quell the secessionist movement, warned earlier this week that such a move would be costly.

He said that Lithuania would owe the central government the equivalent of 21 billion rubles (about \$34 billion) in convertible currency for Soviet investments made in the republic over the past 50 years.

The Lithuanian parliament is scheduled to meet Saturday. On Wednesday, Sajudis and Lithuanian parliamentary leaders had decided to convene the Supreme Soviet Saturday and address the independence issue the next day, according to activist Audris Staurauskas.

Pro-secession sentiment in Lithuania has been swelling for months, but Sajudis moved this week to force the issue. The group wanted to take action before Gorbachev introduces his plans Monday in the national legislature to create a stronger president's post with the power to crack down on restive republics.

The latest Sajudis decision would provide time to negotiate a compromise between the Kremlin and representatives from re-

publics like Lithuania and Georgia where nationalist sentiments are growing. Local activists contend the new presidency would give Moscow near-dictatorial powers over the republics.

National lawmakers were meeting in Moscow Friday in legislative committees to consider Gorbachev's proposal on the new presidency, the Soviet News Agency TASS reported.

Potashnikas said Lithuania's final course of action would be "tightly linked" to the type of powers the Congress confers on Gorbachev.

The Soviet leader, in a recent congress with Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas, warned the Baltic republic that seceding would be costly, according to reports of the talks broadcast on official Vilnius Radio.

The radio reported that Gorbachev said the republic would have to pay the Kremlin 21 billion rubles in hard currency if it seceded. According to TASS, Brazauskas replied that paying that sum in convertible currency "would be an extremely difficult task" since Lithuania imports fuel, metallurgical products and raw materials from the Soviet Union at costs that are about three times lower than world prices.

Ruble stocks accumulated by Lithuania would be of little or no help, since the Soviet currency cannot be freely used on the world market to buy dollars or other Western currencies.

All three Baltic republics, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, were independent nations between the two world wars. They say they were forced to join the Soviet Union in 1940 while under occupation by the Red Army.

The national Supreme Soviet legislature is considering a proposed law that would give the republics the right to secede from the union if they fulfilled a daunting series of requirements.

Meanwhile the United States is urgently considering how to respond to possible declaration of independence by the Lithuanian parliament, seeking a position that would welcome the development but stop short of recognising a new Lithuanian government.

Sources close to the Bush administration said officials were trying to strike a careful balance, that would take the objective legal situation into account but reiterate U.S. support for Lithuanian aspirations.

Kim to quit as N. Korean leader

TOKYO (R) — Kim Il-Sung, North Korea's "great leader" since 1948, will step down after his 78th birthday on April 15 and hand day-to-day power to his son, Kim Jong-Il.

Pyongyang has already announced elections to the Supreme People's Assembly (parliament) on April 22, more than six months ahead of schedule, and North Korea-watchers in Tokyo have been expecting major political developments.

In Friday's report, Kyodo quoted Chinese government sources as saying Peking was told in mid-February that Kim was poised to complete the long-heralded handover to his 48-year-old son, Kim Jong-Il, though he would not relinquish all control.

"He will become North Korea's Deng Xiaoping," Kyodo quoted the sources as saying, implying that, like China's 85-year-old paramount leader, the elder Kim would retain his hold on power by using his immense influence behind the scenes.

Kyodo said a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman had denied the report, saying: "I know no-

thing about it."

But the North Korean embassy, contacted by the Japanese agency, would neither confirm nor deny the report.

In the South Korean capital Seoul, which remains in tense confrontation with the North 37 years after the end of the Korean War, the first reaction was one of caution.

Kyodo quoted one Chinese official as saying North Korea asked China to send Communist Party Chief Jiang Zemin to Pyongyang to reaffirm bilateral ties before the start of the new administration.

Jiang has since scheduled a trip later this month to the reclusive North, according to official reports Tuesday from Peking and Pyongyang.

North Korea's totally-controlled press has in recent weeks stepped up its already laudatory mentions of the younger Kim.

Muting a little their hagiographical references to the "great leader," long the focus of one of the world's most intense personality cults, newspapers and radios have gone overboard about his son.

They have credited the "dear leader" with all manner of feats including, just this week, inspiring a remarkable upsurge in consumer goods production.

Last month, on Kim Jong-Il's 48th birthday, the official news agency reported the extraordinary spread at home and abroad of a new hybrid flower called "Kimjongilia," which it said was being propagated in many countries.

North Korea watchers in Tokyo, noting this propaganda barrage, were intrigued by the announcement in February that Pyongyang would hold early elections to parliament.

Some speculated it was to pave the way for Kim to hand over to his son, founding the Communist World's first ruling dynasty.

A Kyodo Analyst said Kim's apparent decision to quit looked like a pre-emptive move to avoid the tidal wave of change which has swept away many Eastern European Communist leaders.

South Korean officials, however, said they did not know if the long-awaited handover would come any time soon.

COLUMN

13-year-old skeleton found in house

BRUSSELS (R) — A neighbour who climbed in the open rear window of a Brussels house was horrified to find the skeleton of a woman who may have been dead for 13 years. The skeleton was dressed in a robe, lying on a bed. Police said the woman, identified only as Rosalie, was born in 1877 and might have died as long ago as 1977. Her house was condemned in 1971 and the gas and electricity were disconnected. The neighbour, worried that the chimney of the house would topple on his property after recent storms, discovered the body on Feb. 28 but did not tell police until a week later.

Child turns in gambling father

PEKING (AP) — A 6-year-old Shanghai boy has won praise for informing police that his father was gambling, according to a local daily. Shanghai's Liberation Daily, in a Thursday report seen in Peking Friday, said little Wang Leyi appeared at a police station one evening last week to report that his father was playing Mahjong and ask police to "go and take care of the situation." When asked by police who had sent him, the kindergarten pupil said, "gambling is bad and I came on my own to report him." The report said police went to the boy's home, found the adults of the family gambling at Mahjong and "educated" the father. The boy, on returning home, said: "I was the one who asked the 'uncle policeman' to come." It said police and neighbours gathered to watch the scene smited when he said this, and that little Wang's father and the other adults were moved by his actions.

Japanese develop colour Fax machine

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's Sharp Corp. has developed a desktop Facsimile machine that can transmit photograph-like full-colour images, the company said. The machine is the first made for general office use that can transmit full-colour pictures, although some newspapers use very expensive fax equipment to send page layouts from one printing plant to another. The machine can send a photograph of typewriter paper over a regular telephone line in three minutes, and can reproduce subtle colour shades, Tsutomu Muroi, a company official, said. The transmission time can be cut to about 20 seconds if the Fax is sent over digital communications lines, which are used by some companies for telephone calls and data communications, he said. For each page, the cost for paper and a multicolour ribbon is about 300 yen (\$2), the company said. In a public test between two Japanese cities Tuesday, the transmitted copy of a photograph closely matched the original, except the colours were slightly darker, Muroi said.

Bear causes unusual security worries

OSLO (R) — An airport on an Arctic island has an unusual security problem: a hungry-looking polar bear is on the prowl. After dark, ground workers at Norway's Longyearbyen Airport, on Spitzbergen Island around 1,000 kilometres from the North Pole, rush around in pairs for protection. Last weekend, a polar bear lumbered to within 200 metres of the airport. Arctic ice-packs are further north than normal this year, forcing polar bears to hunt in unusual places.

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	06	43	12 54 Cloudy
ATHENS	06	33	22 72 Clear
BAHRAIN	17	63	25 77 Clear
BARCELONA	14	55	39 81 Clear
BEIJING	24	75	27 82 Cloudy
BOMBAY	10	50	22 72 Cloudy
CARACAS	01	33	08 51 Cloudy
CHICAGO	01	33	08 51 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	08	43	10 50 Cloudy
FRANKFURT	17	55	18 61 Cloudy
GENEVA	07	45	18 61 Cloudy
HONG KONG	16	61	19 82 Cloudy
ISTANBUL	07	45	17 63 Clear
LONDON	09	43	13 56 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	11	51	19 64 Cloudy
MADRID	07	45	18 61 Cloudy
MECCA	23	72	20 82 Cloudy
MONTREAL	12	50	01 30 Cloudy
MOSCOW	02	28	02 36 Clear
NEW DELHI	11	52	28 82 Clear
NEW YORK	04	45	18 64 Cloudy
PARIS	09	48	19 62 Cloudy
ROME	02	38	18 61 Cloudy
STOCKHOLM	04	43	16 59 Clear
TOKYO	08	43	16 59 Cloudy
WASH DC	07	45	18 61 Cloudy

M - indicates missing information.

Ortega: Civilians to fight if rebels do not disband

MANAGUA (AP) — President Daniel Ortega says armed citizens will fight U.S.-supported rebels if they do not disband before the new opposition-led government takes office April 25.

But Ortega also said Thursday that even if the rebels do not demobilise, he will "turn over the keys to the government house," to President-elect Violeta Barrios de Chamorro.

He made the comments before thousands of people at a rally celebrating International Women's Day.

"I am convinced that in the same way that the contras say they will not disarm... that the people are willing to grab the arms to finish the contras once and for all," Ortega said.

"Thousands of weapons are in the hands of the people," he said. Since the Sandinistas' Feb. 25 election loss to the United National Opposition, known as UNO, there have been numerous reports of citizens being armed and trained for combat in "sovereignty battalions" by the governing party.

Civilians proudly show their new AK-47 combat rifles to reporters.

Opposition leaders point to the reports of weapons being handed out to civilians in expressing alarm over a Sandinista bill introduced this week in the legislature that would absolve anyone of crimes committed through the end of March.

The law would apply to crimes committed between July 19, 1979, the day of the victory of the Sandinista revolution that overthrew dictator Anastasio Somoza, and March 31.

The law is assured of passage because the Sandinistas' now have a 61-seat majority in the legislature to the 35 seats controlled by six opposition parties. On Thursday, the bill was sent to a committee for review, which will be followed by a vote.

The Sandinistas are taking the action before they lose their majority. In the new legislature, UNO will have 52 seats and the Sandinistas 39.

In his speech, Ortega repeatedly spoke both of leading the Sandinistas as an opposition force in the future and about the Sandinistas' demand that the rebels, known as contras, demobilise during the transition period.

"There is a calm like those before the storm," Ortega said. "And we have the obligation of avoiding being swept away by the tempest of civil war."

"The situation in the country is very tense, very complicated," Ortega said.

He said contras, fighting the Sandinistas since 1981, continue to launch attacks from their camps in Honduras into Nicaraguan territory "with the complicity of the Honduran government and the United States government."

Pretoria cracks down on unrest, dozens arrested

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African police said Friday they had detained dozens of blacks in a crackdown on political violence sweeping the country.

"People who are being detained are the troublemakers causing the violence," a senior police spokesman said.

The arrests took place overnight in townships across the country to crush a five-week wave of anti-apartheid unrest in which up to 200 people have been killed, he said.

"It's dozens arrested, not hundreds," the spokesman said who declined to be identified said in a telephone interview. "They are troublemakers, not black political activists. Do not call them black political activists."

He said the arrests were confined to South Africa's four provinces and had not extended to the 10 tribal homelands, where much of the unrest has occurred.

Security sources said at least 50 people had been rounded up in Orange Free State. The police spokesman described the report as "fair."

Johannesburg lawyer Amichand Soman said 11 people arrested in Orange Free State in the early hours of Friday were members of the United Democratic Front (UDF) anti-apartheid coalition.

He said they had been detained under three-year-old emergency regulations which give police and troops sweeping powers of arrest and permit detention for up to six months without trial.

The UDF is an ally of Nelson Mandela's African National Congress, the main organisation fighting white rule.

News of the arrests coincided with an emergency debate in parliament on the worst unrest since a nationwide uprising against white rule in 1984-86.

"Enough is enough. Political freedom is not a licence for political hooliganism, unruliness and violence," Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok told the assembly.

Fifteen people were killed and 150 injured when raiders hacked and shot men and boys in a black township of Katlehong Thursday night, community groups said.

They said the dead were victims of a war between two rival groups of taxi operators feuding for the two weeks over routes in Katlehong, east of Johannesburg. At least 40 people died.

On Friday, police confirmed six deaths earlier in the week and seven on Thursday night.

The taxi business is one of the few lucrative enterprises open to impoverished blacks and generates intense rivalry.

Unrest spreads in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (R) — Thousands of demonstrators took to the streets in at least eight Haitian cities, including a march on the presidential palace in Port-au-Prince, increasing speculation that President Prosper Avril might step down.

Avril's wife left the country for Washington Wednesday night, according to diplomatic sources who said they believed her husband would soon be following her.

In Petit Gave, where the killing of an 11-year-old girl Monday sparked spontaneous student marches, local radio stations reported that mobs were tearing down the homes of suspected members of the Tonton Macoutes, the feared vigilante forces set up late Dictator Francois Duvalier.

Radio reports said the mobs, estimated at several thousand people, were also attacking police stations in what they described as a return to "Operation De-

choukaj," meaning "to pull up by the roots."

In other provincial cities, the marches were peaceful and the army and local police remained on the sidelines.

In the capital, about 1,000 demonstrators marched on the presidential palace.

A local radio station reported one death in Port-Au-Prince after troops fired into the air and indiscriminately beat marchers who were demanding that Avril step down from power in this impoverished Caribbean nation, which shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic.

Witnesses said members of the dreaded Tonton Macoutes, wearing their trademark dark glasses, were out in force and appeared to be directing military action. Some ordered soldiers to stop beating civilians, the witnesses said.

Women who made a difference lauded worldwide

WOMEN formed a chain around India's parliament to demand equality, and Margaret Thatcher of Britain welcomed Nicaragua's new president to the club of female leaders during ceremonies Thursday for International Women's Day.

The French saluted women who helped bring change to Eastern Europe. A visiting U.S. women's leader rallied against the social status of American women.

Leaders and women's groups around the world joined in the observances. March 8 was declared Women's Day in 1910 during an international socialist women's conference in Copenhagen, Denmark. The celebration was adopted by the United Nations in 1975.

In New Delhi Thursday, about 2,000 women surrounded the parliament building in a human chain. The protesters, many with clenched fists, called for more

opportunities for women and equality of the sexes.

One sign carried by a protester said, "It is not women chain; it is a human chain."

In her comments to the male-dominated British House of Commons, Prime Minister Thatcher praised the Feb. 25 election in Nicaragua of newspaper publisher Violeta Barrios de Chamorro.

"How very grateful we are that our small number of heads of government have been added to by another head of government, a woman head of government in Nicaragua," she said.

She spoke after rejecting an opposition Labour Party demand to mark Women's Day by increasing state payments to mothers of dependent children.

In Managua, Nicaragua, outgoing President Daniel Ortega used his speech marking the day to warn of civil war if the U.S.-supported contra rebels fail to

dismantle before April 25, when Mrs. Chamorro takes over.

In Paris, ceremonies honoured women who have played major roles in the fight for democracy in Romania, the Soviet Union and elsewhere.

Among those singled out were human rights activists Yelena Bonner of the Soviet Union and Doina Cornea of Romania, both targets of government repression for many years.

A symposium on "women and creation" sponsored by a year-old French feminist group, the Women's Alliance for Democracy, featured a host of international feminist leaders. They included Molly Yard, president of the National Organisation for Women in the United States.

"International Women's Day demonstrates that everywhere women are pretty much treated as less than first-class citizens," Yard said to the Associated Press. Asked about the status of

women in the United States, Yard said "the picture isn't pretty."

"They lose their jobs, they don't get promoted and they get harassed on the job. They're denied tenure as professors, they get beaten up and they get terrible divorce settlements," she said.

Michele Andre, France's deputy minister of women's rights, saluted the achievements of President Corazon Aquino of the Philippines and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan.

She said France will try to provide Romanian hospitals with materials for contraception and abortion. Romanian women were forbidden to use contraceptive devices and denied abortions under the dictatorship of Nicolae Ceausescu, who was executed during the December revolution.

In another address in New York, U.N. Secretary-General

Javier Perez de Cuellar lauded the work of women in special U.N. missions in Namibia and Nicaragua. He also said more must be done to promote women in the world body.

In Peking, Chen Muhua, head of the All-China Women's Federation, stressed party allegiance in a reception at the Great Hall of the People for more than 1,000 prominent women.

"Chinese women are convinced that without national liberation, there would be no women's liberation, and without the Communist Party and socialism, they would not have won the status they enjoy today," she said.

Premier Li Peng, who attended the reception, said women "under the leadership of the Communist Party will forge ahead to maintain and further enhance the country's economic and political stability."